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Veterans celebrate 70th anniversary of dramatic rescue with Channel crossing



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CALLOUS THIEVES TARGET HOSPITAL VEHICLE PARTS

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YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE FERRETS

This furry friend hopes to show families that ferrets are loveable creature during a special week dedicated to them at a Kent Life in Sandling.

Resident ferrets - Squid, Pop, Bracken, Thirsty, Gavin and Florence - will be roaming the site's farmyard during half term (until Sunday, June 6) to promote the Love the Great British Ferret campaign.

The family attraction will let its ferrets greet visitors between 1.30pm every day and hope to involve them in a summer show.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

METAL thieves have put patients' lives at risk by damaging a number of frontline hospital vehicles used to transport gravely-ill cancer sufferers.

The criminals targeted specially-fitted medical vehicles at Maidstone Hospital and Preston Hall, in Aylesford, during the past fortnight.

It is thought they have carried out similar attacks on a number of vehicles in the area, each time making off with a valuable platinum component contained in the catalytic converters, which they can sell on to scrap metal merchants.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's security management specialist Ron Faulds said: "This is a callous and thoughtless crime.

"The thieves must have known that by attacking hospital vehicles, patients' welfare would be put at risk, potentially their own relatives too.

"When this type of crime occurs the cost to the community is sometimes far greater than just financial."

The damaged vehicles were discovered by workers during the weekend of May 22-23.

A number of cars had been sabotaged at Preston Hall and one had been damaged at the patient transport centre, which is located on the main Maidstone Hospital site.

Staff at the two targeted hospitals have been warned to be vigilant of anyone acting suspicious.

Kent Police are investigating the incidents and believe the hospital crimes may be linked to

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your lifestyle

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New kid has it off to a tee

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Wrestling legend Flair says Wolfe is big tip for top

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

LEGENDARY wrestling star Ric Flair has tipped a Kent-born colleague to reach the top of his profession.

The former 16-time world champion says ex-Maidstone schoolboy Steven Haworth – who performs under the name Desmond Wolfe – has all the tools required to make a name for himself in the industry.

Both men currently star for the Total Non-stop Action (TNA) promotion, which is returning to the UK for its third tour of the country next January.

Speaking to KOS Media to promote the Maximum Impact shows, Flair – considered one of the finest wrestlers in history – heaped praise on his fellow grappler.

“Desmond has a lot of skill and has a tremendous future in the business,” he said. “I certainly think he’s a future world champion.

“There’s so much competition right now for that role as the top guy in TNA so it may not happen overnight, but I have no doubt it’s something he’s capable of fulfilling.”

Flair – nicknamed The Nature Boy – also had kind words for Sevenoaks grappler Douglas Williams, who is also under contract with TNA as the promotion’s X-Division champion.

He said: “Doug is a tremendously skilled guy as well. I’ve worked more with Desmond so I know more about him, but Doug is a gifted athlete and I see no reason why he can’t continue to be successful.”

Having wrestled at the highest level since the mid-1970s, Flair stands alongside the likes of Hulk Hogan and The Rock as one of the most famous wrestlers to have ever lived.

Despite being told he would never perform again after breaking his back in a 1975 plane crash, Flair went on to headline events around the world – selling out such famous venues as



MAXIMUM IMPACT: Rick Flair (inset) says Desmond Wolfe is one to watch

Wembley Stadium and Madison Square Garden in the process.

He joined TNA in January after more than seven years with the better-known World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) but at 61, says he has no plans to call it a day.

“There will be a time when I hang my boots up, but it’s not now,” he said. “I feel great, thank God. I probably have too much energy for my own good.

“I just love the business and being with TNA at a time when it’s expanding and building a brand that is second to none.”

The Maximum Impact tour includes dates in Glasgow, Manchester and London’s Wembley Arena, and takes place between January 27 and 29 next year.

Tickets go on general sale at 9am on Friday, June 4.

“The UK fans are some of the greatest fans in the world to perform in front of,” said Flair.

“I’ve had fun whenever I’ve come over here because the crowds are always big. They don’t get to see us as much as they do in America, so they’re always loud and appreciative of what we do.”

Art prize winner shares glory with competitors

THE delighted winner of a free art exhibition has chosen to share his prize with his competitors.

Paul Turner was announced the winner of the competition, titled StARTle 2010, after his collection of photographs wowed a panel of expert judges.

His prize is an opportunity to boost his career with a four-week showcase in the Hazlitt Arts Centre, Earl Street, but instead of keeping the glory, Mr Turner has invited the runner-ups to join him.

The 58-year-old father-of-one said: “It was a big surprise when I was announced the winner, especially when the other entrant had such a high standard of work.

“I suggested to the runners-up that they have a bit of space as well. It will give the public a varied experience which is wonderful.”

Mr Turner and his fellow finalists, illustrator Aisha Young and experimental artist Giles Whitehead, will display their work in the Graham Clarke Gallery, within the centre, from today (June 2) to Wednesday, June 30.

Charity abseil a tall storey for bank staff

A BRAVE team of bank workers will take the plunge down the side of the tallest building in Maidstone to help raise funds for charity.

The HSBC staff will abseil down Miller House, on Lower Stone Street, in aid of The Heart of Kent Hospice.

The team, made up of Iain Catchpole, Jo Ambury, Lizzie Fender and Hardip Klear, hope to raise £500 by completing the 200ft challenge and have already pledged £320 to the Aylesford-based organisation.

The event, on Saturday, is open to all ages but entrants must raise a minimum £75 to take part.

Dare devils who wish to face the challenge should call 01622 790195 or email fundraising@hokh.co.uk.

Drink drivers target in World Cup crackdown

DRUNK football fans are the target of a police operation to reduce drink driving in mid Kent.

The campaign will be launched to coincide with the World Cup as officers fear motorists may have one drink too many while watching the matches.

It is hoped the scheme will raise awareness and reduce the amount of drink-related incidents on the roads.

Fined for illegal waste disposal

FOUR illegal waste carriers have been fined a total £900 for operating without a valid licence.

The offenders were slapped with the penalties during a road check scheme aimed to reduce flytipping in villages.

Maidstone police and the council’s environment enforcement team carried out the checks on Monday, 24 May, in Lidsing, Hollingbourne, Leeds and Boxley.

PC Ian Loader, who was involved in the day of action, said: “This action serves as a warning to illegal waste carriers who transport waste within the Maidstone area and may even have prevented the waste from becoming dumped illegally within the rural area.

“This is not a one off exercise – we are committed to working with our partners in the council to see that fly

tipping is stamped out in Maidstone and will continue to hold similar checks in the coming months.”

The council’s environmental operations manager, Martyn Jaynes, said: “Any contractor who removes and transports waste material that is not their own is required to be registered and have a waste carriers licence.

“Every waste carrier must have documentation in relation to their waste.

“Those found who are not registered to carry waste, face an instant £300 fine or, if they are repeat offenders, having legal action taken against them.

“Fines up to £50,000 and prison time await those caught fly tipping, we will do everything in our power to bring those who deface our borough to justice.”

The fines for the four waste carri-

ers follow the prosecution of Danny Hales, of Camp Way, Maidstone, who pleaded guilty to three flytipping offences.

Hales admitted dumping household rubbish and discarded medicines on farmland adjacent to Grange Lane, in Boxley, and for carrying the waste without a valid licence.

Magistrates in Maidstone ordered him to pay a £700 fine for the litter offences.

Mr Jaynes added: “The message is clear – do not flytip or carry waste illegally, as we could be on the roads too.”

To register as a waste carrier contact the Environment Agency on 08708 50650.

To report flytipping in Maidstone call the council on 01622 602000 or go online at www.maidstone.gov.uk.



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Fight to get commuter services back on track

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MAIDSTONE'S new chief executive and MP plan to confront the new government in hope of reinstating the town's commuter links to London.

Newly-appointed council boss Alison Broom and Maidstone and Weald MP Helen Grant want to see improved rail services introduced after Southeastern railway scrapped fast routes to the city last year.

Mrs Broom, who has only been in her new role for a week, has revealed that poor train services are on the top of her list.

She said: "Rail connections are what we need to improve. One the first conversations I had with Helen Grant was about lobbying government for a review of the rail services coming in to Maidstone East.

Connections

"Having better rail services makes Maidstone more accessible and having better connections will make people want to be here."

Southeastern's decision to end the fast-track service from Maidstone East to Cannon Street in December last year caused outrage among commuters.

The railway company claimed the service no longer generated enough passengers, despite a survey conducted by a protest group that suggested otherwise.

Campaign group Keep Our Trains was launched when news of the plans were announced and gained the support of former MP



CAMPAIGN: Alison Broom with resident Carrie Emberley, and MP Helen Grant with Keep Our Trains member Huw Whitethread

Ann Widdecombe and her successor Mrs Grant.

Now in Parliament, Mrs Grant hopes her new role will help finally solve the situation.

She said: "Since the election I have been in regular contact with both Sir John Stanley MP and Hugh Robertson MP regarding the poor city commuter service in Maidstone.

"We are pushing for an early meeting with Theresa Villiers, the new Minister of State for Transport, in order to take up the matter at the highest levels.

"Restoring our depleted rail services was one of my key election pledges and will indeed remain a top priority. Trains are an essential part of our County Town's infrastructure and our future prosperity."

Mrs Broom started her new job on Monday, May 24 and spent her first few days prioritising

issues affecting Maidstone, including the railway services.

During her second day of power she visited the council's Gateway community hub, in King Street, to talk with members of the public and frontline staff.

She said: "I want to find out what kind of town the public want to live and work in and make them feel they are involved in how decide and deliver our services.

"We want to make sure the public has good access to good customer care and that they are getting value for their money."

From talking to staff and customers, Mrs Broom discovered the overall perception of the council was good, but employees are often restricted with the help they can offer and that there is room for improvement.



The net's closing in on benefit cheats

MORE than 14,000 taxpayers will be investigated in an operation to catch benefit cheats.

About 13,500 residents will be screened during the initiative to check they are not wrongly claiming for single person discount.

Homeowners who claim for single occupancy have their bill slashed by 25 per cent – paid for by other taxpayers.

Maidstone council has launched the scheme in a bid to protect the public purse by preventing and detecting fraud.

Council officers have appointed Capita Local Government Services to undertake the full review of single persons discounts across the borough.

The company will work with Equifax, the credit reference agency, in using up-to-the-minute data-matching technology to identify fraudsters claiming benefits they are not lawfully entitled to.

The scheme follows a similar review held in the 2008-2009 financial year which resulted in savings of about £60,000.

Any taxpayers receiving a discount which they feel may not be correct can call the council on 01622 602003 before the scheme begins this month.

Forces unite to take a cuff line on crime

PARTNER agencies aimed to prove they are united in tackling anti-social behaviour by handcuffing officials together.

Officers from the police, fire service and council were handcuffed to one another at the launch of a new community safety unit yesterday at the Lockmeadow Complex.

The partnership aims to tackle all ranges of community issues in a bid to make Maidstone a safer place to live and work.

For more information, or to contact the unit, call 01622 602472 or visit www.maidstone.gov.uk/safermaidstone.

Valuable catalytic converters stolen

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

similar offences in mid and north Kent.

DS Darren Ryder, of mid Kent's tactical crime investigation department, said: "We take these crimes very seriously and are currently pursuing a number of positive leads.

"Two suspects were arrested by police in north Kent recently for a string of catalytic converter thefts, five of which took place in Mid Kent.

"As part of our ongoing investigations we are targeting identified suspects and working closely with scrap metal dealers to ensure they are keeping accurate records of anyone selling catalytic converters.

"We are also working with our crime reduction officer, John Grant, to raise awareness of the problem.

"Because of the value of the components inside, the theft of catalytic converters is an increasing problem across the UK and unfortunately Mid Kent is no exception.

"Criminals tend to target vans and our advice would be to keep vehicles in a secure compound with security lighting where possible."

A Kent police spokesperson was waiting for further details of the mid Kent-related incidents at the time of press.

• Anyone with information is urged to contact the tactical crime investigation department on 01622 604 212, or call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



ORDEAL: Woman was sleeping rough in Mote Park when James McDonagh attacked her

Rapist convicted of brutal attack on woman in park

A VIOLENT rapist has been found guilty of attacking a woman as she slept in a park.

James McDonagh, of Coppermill Lane, Walthamstow, was found guilty by a jury at Maidstone Crown Court of carrying out the horrific attack in Mote Park, on June 20 of last year.

His 31-year-old victim was sleeping rough under a tree when two of McDonagh's accomplices pinned her down while he raped her.

The other two attackers have never been found.

McDonagh originally pleaded not guilty and continued to change his version of accounts throughout the trial – causing more distress for the victim who was forced to give evidence.

The jury's guilty verdict on Tuesday, May 25, was unanimous.

DS Graham Hooks, of the area major enquiry team, said: "This was a brutal and cowardly attack, which has

had a significant impact on this vulnerable woman and will no doubt affect her for many years to come.

"Throughout the trial McDonagh continued to deny the offence, forcing the victim to give evidence in court.

"I would like to thank the victim for her great bravery in initially coming forward and then in testifying against her attacker.

"Her courage has meant that this dangerous man has been brought to justice.

"Mid Kent's area major enquiry team are committed to helping victims of sexual crime seek justice from their aggressors.

"This dedicated team has had specialist training to ensure that victims receive the appropriate level of support they deserve."

McDonagh will reappear at Maidstone Crown Court for sentencing on Monday, July 2.

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LIFE-SAVING: Dr Amir Nisar and his team put the new technology into practice at Maidstone's IMACS

New lab makes trust keyhole surgery leader

STATE-OF-THE-ART equipment that is expected to revolutionise keyhole surgery for patients across Kent has been unveiled at Maidstone Hospital. **Anna White** went to the hospital to take an in-depth look into the new advanced technology, which will be used to teach surgeons from across the globe.

■ BY ANNA WHITE



SCRUBBED UP: Dr Devaja teaches Anna keyhole surgery

I was given a sneak preview of the plush International Minimal Access Centre for Surgery (IMACS) two days ahead of the unit's official opening.

Armed with blue surgical cap and gloves, I was ready to prove I had what it takes to be a laparoscopic surgeon, with the assistance of my helper Dr Omer Devaja – consultant gynaecologist and gynaecology surgeon.

Using the new multi-million-pound camera equipment, supplied to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) by global electronics brand Olympus, I went into the torso of a human dummy.

Instead of the usual blood and organs inside, there were butter beans, sugar cubes and almonds, which I had to place in a bowl using two 10mm specialist clamps.

The camera, which is inserted through a third, smaller incision, shows a clear high-definition image of inside the torso, enabling me to steadily move the objects.

The next task involved stitching a banana skin and this proved a bit too difficult for my first attempt at keyhole surgery.

Dr Devaja passed me with "flying colours" and said I could have a future in surgery if I ever wanted to leave journalism, but I think patients would be safer if I stayed away from the operating theatre.

The lab where the learning stations are located is in the same building as a new auditorium, which will eventually be filled by surgeons from across the UK, Europe and the world, who will watch live surgeries.

Maidstone is the first hospital in the world to use this type of technology.

IMACS director and consultant laparoscopic surgeon, Amir Nisar, said he hoped

more doctors will visit the centre to learn how to use this new equipment and request to have it installed at other hospitals.

"This equipment is the newest of the new and the best of the best," he said. "The surgeons who come here will experience the best and hopefully they will demand that quality at every hospital they go to."

"MTW is seen as a leader in complex laparoscopic surgery. Our surgical teams are extremely proud to be sharing their expertise on a worldwide stage to help aid advances in patient care."

"The centre is truly state-of-the-art. More than 2,000 patients a year in Kent already benefit from advances in laparoscopic surgery at MTW and this will now be shared as best practice internationally."

One person who agrees with the experts' opinions is patient Ian Vinton, from Sittingbourne, who had laparoscopic surgery at Maidstone Hospital a year ago to remove a cancerous gullet.

By having keyhole surgery, the 56-year-old recovered from the operation in five-days. If he had undergone open surgery he would have been in hospital for at least three weeks.

He said: "The advances in surgery at Maidstone enabled me to recover from the operation quickly."

"It is great to think the hospital will become one of the foremost places in the UK and Europe for this kind of surgery."

Gang attack man in street

A TEENAGER was left with serious injuries after a gang of thugs attacked him during the early hours of the morning.

The 19-year-old was struck when he was walking on College Road, near the town centre, between 12.30am and 12.45am on Saturday, May 22.

The gang of six or seven men kicked and punched him, causing serious injury.

DC Carli Davis said: "The incident occurred on a fairly busy road used by traffic linking to the one-way system."

"This is a cowardly attack by this group of men on a lone victim, although I would iterate such incidents are quite rare."

"Police will be carrying out further patrols in the area to bring forward any further information."

"I urge anyone who may have witnessed it to contact me on 01795 419 282 or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Man charged with arson

A SUSPECTED fire-starter has been charged with arson with intent to endanger life following a house fire.

Wayne Allen Dryland, of Wallis Avenue, was arrested after the blaze in Park Wood on Sunday, May 23. The 30-year-old was remanded in custody following a hearing at Maidstone Magistrates court on Monday, May 24.

A trial date for the accused is yet to be set.

Neighbours catch thieves

A NEIGHBOURHOOD watch team has been praised for helping in catch two thieves.

Members of the scheme in Marigold Way, Maidstone, called police after they spotted two men with a van acting suspiciously and moving items on a disused building site.

Patrol teams attended the scene and arrested a 27-year-old and 22-year-old man. They were both later cautioned for theft.

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RESCUE: Plucked off the beaches at Dunkirk in 1940



THE legend of the Little Ships lives on.

In Ramsgate last week dozens of craft sailed into the harbour to re-enact the miraculous rescue of thousands upon thousands of Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk 70 years ago.

Ships of all shapes and sizes moored up as part of the town's Dynamo Day celebrations on Thursday, which attracted thousands of people.

The event marked the feat of the rescue as well as the town's part in the rescue of some 358,000 servicemen from Normandy as the Nazis made their relentless push to the French beaches.

Tom Tit

No better example of the Dunkirk spirit exists than the story of the vessel Tom Tit.

The boat made 16 trips back and forth to larger carrier vessels during the extraordinary evacuation effort.

It was taken without permission from Ramsgate harbour by two young Thanet brothers, Ron and Alan Tomlinson, who worked for local firm Claxton Shipwrights.

Their only thought was to help the evacuation and they took off across the Channel with not a thought for their own safety.

The brothers feared they would get in trou-

The Little Ships that achieved big things

Last week was the 70th anniversary of the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation. Reporters Tom Betts and Nick Ames saw celebrations on both sides of the Channel to remember the heroes... and the little ships

ble for their efforts and be arrested, but they were rightly commended and praised for their bravery when they arrived back home.

The Tom Tit is now under the ownership of skipper Trevor Phillips, who believes it may have helped rescue up to 500 men and was one of the last boats able to rescue troops from a pier as the Germans were right at the other end.

He said: "What they did was a seriously dangerous thing. The boat caught fire twice! These lads were determined to do their bit and that's a fantastic achievement on their part."

Mr Phillips keeps the boat in first-class order and it spends most of its time in the Thames near his home in Weybridge, Surrey.

The Tom Tit, a port-cruiser, was among the 50 boats that made the crossing to Dunkirk last week.

Many of those who sail the Little Ships say they feel more like custodians of pieces of his-

tory than mere boat-owners.

Tony Farncombe, skipper of the Wanda, a motor-cruiser, said: "I'm very proud to be an owner of a Dunkirk Little Ship."

History

"It's also something that you are very concerned about. You are the keeper of a piece of history and you are passing something on."

"It's a responsibility you have. These boats die very quickly if they don't get regular attention. We have to look after them."

Ian Gilbert owns the motor-yacht Papillon, which was built in 1930.

He said: "When I had the chance to buy a Dunkirk Little Ship, it seemed too good an opportunity to miss, but these are pieces of history and we must remember that and maintain them in such a way."

"This is my third return and every five years

it becomes more of an occasion – it's a fabulous thing to be involved in.

"It's wonderful that Operation Dynamo and the sacrifices that were made on the beaches is being remembered. It's going to be a big celebration in France this weekend."

Ray Dunstone of the Angele Aline, one of the oldest boats to make the intrepid voyage in 1940, also sailed across.

He said: "The Angele Aline is thought to have saved more than 300 soldiers during the Dunkirk rescue, according to records."

"I bought the Angele in 2007 and it's tremendous to be a part of these commemorations when you think about it. It's incredible."

Hundreds of war veterans turned out for Dynamo Day and the town buzzed with people as Forces sweetheart Kas sang standards such as The White Cliffs of Dover to crowds.

The poignant atmosphere was also evident

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SALUTE: Scots Guard Piper heralded the arrival of the veterans to Dunkirk



in the harbour area, where members of the public were invited to meet Little Ships owners and crews where the boats were moored.

Many, such as Ian Frank from Dover, took the chance to board vessels.

He said: "I wanted to come today to see the Little Ships for myself.

"With it being the 70th anniversary, I thought it the ideal time to come down.

"The skippers of the boats I have talked to are all dedicated to keeping them alive and working, which is great to see.

"It's such an inspiring event and I hope the crossing goes well for them tomorrow.

"Dunkirk was not a military triumph as it marked our retreat, but it did show our spirit and camaraderie as never before and probably never since." **TB**



REMEMBER: The Little Ships arrive off the French coast, left; Veterans recall the dark days of 1940 and the rescue mission, middle; school children from Kent fly the flags in celebration



The Dunkirk Spirit is alive and well

TALES of heroism, miraculous escapes and tragedy were all shared by Second World War veterans as they paid respects to fallen comrades and remembered the events of 70 years ago in Dunkirk, last week.

The anniversary marked the evacuation of the French port, codenamed Operation Dynamo, which took place between May 26 and June 4, 1940.

A flotilla of 900 naval and civilian craft was sent across the Channel under RAF protection and managed to rescue 338,226 people.

During the evacuation, the Luftwaffe attacks reduced the town of Dunkirk to rubble and destroyed 235 vessels and 106 aircraft.

At least 5,000 soldiers lost their lives.

Although the Germans took more than a million Allied prisoners in three weeks at a cost of 60,000 casualties, the evacuation was a major boost to British morale.

Hundreds of small vessels set sail to bring the troops off the beaches after an order was issued on BBC Radio to "all owners of self-propelled pleasure craft between 30 and 100 feet in length to send all particulars to the Admiralty".

The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, described the "miracle of deliverance" from

Dunkirk and warned of an impending invasion in a moving speech to Parliament on the day the last allied soldier arrived home at the end of the 10-day operation.

The 'Dunkirk Spirit' has passed into British folklore and the originators of that phrase remembered proudly the events of early summer 1940.

Veterans, along with guests, schoolchildren and representatives of the Help for Heroes charity arrived in Dunkirk on the Norfolkline ship Maersk Dover accompanied by the Parachute Regimental Band.

Many of the remaining Little Ships also made the crossing for remembrance ceremonies in Dunkirk.

Michael Weller-Bentall, now 89, and with family in Ashford, remembers Dunkirk being like "Dante's Inferno".

He said: "When we reached the town it was on fire. Boats were sunk all along the port. It was like something from Dante's Inferno.

"But I saw a little boat on the edge of the water and it had oars on board. I knew how to row so we made it out to a minesweeper."

On board the ship the rescued soldiers had another slice of luck.

"A dive bomber dropped its bomb straight

into our ammunition compartment," said Mr Weller-Bentall who now lives in Canada and walked to the beaches of Dunkirk over a period of days from near Brussels as the British Army retreated.

"If we hadn't run out we'd have been blown to pieces. I knew nothing about it, though.

"I was asleep and only woke up when we reached Sheerness.

"But if it had gone off I'd have been at the bottom of the Channel."

George Kemp of the Queen's Cameron Highlanders joined the Army in 1940 after seeing footage of the Dunkirk evacuation on the cinema news.

He said: "I knocked two years off my age in order to join up. So the Army still thinks I'm 88 but actually I'm 86.

"It's an honour to pay tribute to the men of Dunkirk today.

"It's great to meet up with some of my former comrades and it's also great to see many current soldiers giving us so much respect."

The ship carrying the veterans left the Port of Dover after an address from Lord Lieutenant of Kent Allan Willett who praised the courage of the men who fought 70 years ago and to the sound of the Parachute Regiment band. **NA**

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QUESTION & ANSWER

RODD NELSON-GRACIE



Q Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

A I have recently retired after two-and-a-half years as bursar at a Kent School – King's Canterbury – having spent the previous 13 years as bursar at King's School, Rochester. I have lived in Nettlestead Green, outside Yalding, for the past 27 years with my wife and family. My three daughters no longer live at home and we have three grandchildren. I enjoy walking, gardening and other outdoor activities.

Q You were voted the borough councillor for Marden and Yalding ward at the May 6 election – were you expecting to win?

A Yes, I was expecting to win as Marden and Yalding is the third, safest seat in the Maidstone borough, by size of majority.

Q This victory was a re-election for you. How long have you held the Marden and Yalding seat?

A I was first elected into the Marden and Yalding seat in a by-election in 1997.

Q Tell us what goes in to a local election campaign? What did you do to secure the votes?

A The campaign contains three main elements – putting up posters to publicise the election and your name, distributing leaflets to set out your plans and promises, and canvassing door-to-door.

Q What are the main issues in Marden and Yalding which you are determined to tackle?

A The borough council has limited influence over the lives of its citizens, but in general, one wants to ensure the best quality of services continue to be provided by the borough. I want to ensure that people know who to contact in case of need.

Specific campaign issues were to exert influence on directing Heavy Goods Vehicles away from rural roads, try to stop building – especially residential developments – on the flood plain, campaign for properly controlled and regulated legislation on gypsy planning applications, try to get more funding for highway improvements and push for improvements to park and ride arrangements

Q Do you have any action plans to address these issues?

A Most of these activities involve writing and speaking to 'the right' people to obtain their support and influence.

Q Are you pleased with the Conservatives' overall performance in the borough election?

A The Conservatives won three and lost three seats at the recent borough elections, retaining one seat majority on the whole council. This is obviously the closest it could be and it would have been preferable to have a two to three seat majority to allow for sickness or other absence in any crucial vote.

Q What are your thoughts on your main party's situation in central government?

A The forming of a coalition between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats is a bold move but it is too soon to tell if this will work. I hope it does.

Q David Cameron and Nick Clegg have vowed to work together at Number 10 – do you hope the partnership will build bridges between the two parties on a local level?

A Local politics has little similarity with Westminster politics. I doubt that there will be any significant changes.

Q What are your hopes for the future of Maidstone and its council?

A The best advance would be to hold local council elections every four years so that each administration has a decent period of time to introduce and put into effect meaningful changes. Annual elections mean there is a tendency to plan for the short term and one to one-and-a-half months a year are diverted into election activity. The borough is well perceived both nationally and publically according to surveys, and I would wish this to continue.

Q How can residents get in touch with you?

A They can email me at roddnelson-gracie@maidstone.gov.uk or contact me on 01622 814263.

Q&A

Conservative Marden and Yalding borough councillor Rodd Nelson-Gracie talks to **Anna White** about the issues in his ward, how he intends to address them and his hopes for the future of Maidstone council.

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Getting involved in the World Cup this summer

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

ENGLAND manager Fabio Capello has backed KOS Media's new Fab Football 2010 campaign aimed at increasing participation in the sport.

Ahead of leading the Three Lions into battle at next month's World Cup, the Italian supremo is fighting our corner as we attempt to lure people away from their television sets and onto the field of play.

The campaign we are launching today – which also has the backing of FA vice-chairman Barry Bright and sports minister Hugh Robertson – will highlight the health and social benefits of playing football, as well as provide information on how disabled people, women and other minority groups can get involved.

It will also demonstrate how the FA's ongoing Respect campaign is having a positive influence on the lives of children and their parents and teachers throughout Kent.

Capello said: "In England we each share a wonderful passion for the game, and I'm sure KOS Media's Fab Football campaign will be a positive experience for the whole county."

"It is a great opportunity for players, children and families to get involved in football and inspire a new generation."

With more than 3,000 teams and 45,000 players competing each week across the county, football is already the most popular sport in Kent – but we want even more people to enjoy the many benefits of the beautiful game.

Over the next few months we will be talking to health chiefs



FOOTBALL FANS: England manager Fabio Capello backs our campaign; and left, England player Wayne Rooney



about how football can help in the fight against problems such as obesity and heart disease, as well as to the police about how it can cut crime and improve communities. We will also be offering some fantastic competition prizes.

Kent County FA chairman Barry Bright said: "We welcome and are delighted to give wholesome support to KOS Media's Fab Football Campaign."

Benefits

"With the excitement of the World Cup less than a fortnight away, there is a great opportunity to further raise the profile of England's most popular sport."

"So while cheering England to success, don't just sit in your armchair watching the games – now is the time to find out about the many ways you can

actively get involved in the fun, enjoyment and success of football in Kent."

Sports minister Hugh Robertson – the MP for Faversham and Mid Kent – has also given his full support to the Fab Football campaign. He said: "If there's one event that can inspire more young people to take up football, it's the World Cup."

"As well as the obvious health benefits, the sport brings together people from all communities and has a truly global appeal."

"As sports and Olympics minister, my top priority is to extend the opportunities available through sport to the maximum number of people so I would encourage all of the young people in Kent to get involved in the beautiful game."

What areas of the sport would you like our Fab Football campaign to cover? We're appealing for all young footballers, Sunday league players and semi-professional clubs to get in touch and let us know.

Send your suggestions to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

Stopping hospital superbug outbreak is in all our hands

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A HEALTH watchdog has warned of a potential superbug infection outbreak if hospital staff fail to prioritise hand hygiene.

It follows a study of eight of the county's hospitals where bacteria linked to MRSA and Clostridium difficile was found on some wards.

Health experts have now issued a stark warning to hospitals, reminding them of the C diff outbreak at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust where 90 patients died between 2004 and 2006 across its three hospitals.

Officials from Kent and Medway Local Involvement Network (LINk), who carried out the research, said they understood infection rates were falling across the county, but stressed that hand hygiene standards must be kept up.

Graham Hills, operations director of the organisation, which looks to improve health and social care in Kent and Medway, said some of their findings were "disturbing".

"MRSA and C diff rates are dropping so the high-profile messages by hospitals to use hand gels are having some impact, but it's the inconsistency of use by staff and visitors that is concerning," he said.

"On swabs taken around hospitals, we found bacteria which could pose a risk to patients' health at nurses' stations – such as computer keyboards – bathrooms and patients' bedsides."

"Some of the bacteria we found was part of the MRSA and C diff bacteria groups. We don't want to see another infection outbreak."

Research was carried out between September, 2009, and March, 2010, at William Harvey Hospital in Ashford; Kent and Canterbury in Canterbury; Darent Valley in Dartford; Medway Maritime in Gillingham; Maidstone Hospital; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in Margate; Kent and Sussex in Tunbridge Wells; and Pembury, also in Tunbridge Wells.

Hygiene

A total of 1,353 observations were made of staff, patients and visitors using hand hygiene gel dispensers, and 145 swab samples taken from around the hospitals.

Levels of compliance varied from 80 per cent down to less than 20 per cent, with observations of use at the entrance to wards being lowest at the William Harvey, which is run by the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.

The highest usage was seen at Pembury – one of the hospitals embroiled in the superbug scandal three years ago.

Mr Hills said while he realises it is impossible to create environments that are totally bacteria-free, contamination at key places indicates less than perfect cleaning systems.

Seven of the 145 swabs taken – four from computer keys, two from hot taps and one from unisex public toilets – found bacteria linked to MRSA.

Hazel Brain, a volunteer who helped carry out the study, said: "What we found most disappointing was that so many people moving around the hospital were not making enough use of the facilities provided for them."

But NHS trusts, who welcomed the report, have stressed cleanliness is a priority, proven by the sharp fall in infection rates.

Linda Dempster, head of infection prevention and control at Medway NHS Foundation Trust – where rates of MRSA have fallen by 77 per cent in the last four years – said the researchers did not view every area of the hospitals: "They did not see point of care where hand hygiene is vital because we couldn't let researchers right next to the patients," she said.

"Also, in regards to random swabbing, if something has only just been used it may have bacteria on it, but this will be cleaned."

"If staff see people not complying with hand rubs they'll speak to them, but it's difficult to police them 24/7."

It's a radio return for popular Geoff

GEOFF Clark's new radio show, Lazy Sunday Afternoons, launches this weekend on BBC Radio Kent from 2-5pm.

The former BBC South East presenter, is going back to his roots to create the perfect accompaniment to Sunday afternoons.

Geoff will be taking calls and making sure listeners get the latest sport and travel information while playing great music past and present.

Plus he's keen for listeners to shun their PCs as he will be encouraging them to write in with their thoughts, views and requests.

Geoff said: "I am really looking forward to being part of BBC Radio Kent and especially hearing from listeners. Radio is a lot more personal than television; you have a different relationship with your audience."

"I started in radio way back when and have always loved it."

"You can just get stuck in plus I get to play loads of my favourite music. What could be better than that?"



ON AIR: Geoff Clark

Changes to planning process welcomed as a positive move

A SHAKE-UP of the planning system that promises more power for local authorities has been welcomed in Kent.

The government proposals announced last week include the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission and the scrapping of the South East Plan, which sets specific housing targets for towns throughout the region.

Sean Furey, deputy director of the Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said there were a lot of things to be positive about.

"It's potentially a good thing if we're going to see more local decision-making," he said.

"The point of all the regional plans was so central government could devolve to local planners, but it ended up being the other way around. The power went the wrong way and a lot of things were imposed on Kent as a result. Hopefully this trend can now be reversed because local authorities know the local issues better."

The official aim of the South East Plan was to ensure the region remained "economically successful and an attractive place to live for future generations".

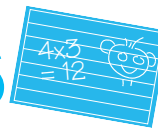
A final version of the document was published by the former Labour government in May last year, and included a housing target of 32,700 homes per year up to 2026.

Mr Furey said he was pleased these targets would now be removed but was concerned it could undermine the regeneration efforts in towns like Ashford, Dover, Sittingbourne and Dartford.

He also voiced his support for the removal of policy support for rail-freight depots, which he said could kill off the proposed BIG depot at Wrotham, Platt and Borough Green. Kent County Council leader Paul Carter admitted it was "back to the drawing board" for many schemes, adding that some would never have been successful anyway.

Clr Carter said he was also pleased to see the back of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), which has only been accepting applications for major projects such as power stations and wind farms since March this year.

His view that it was an unelected quango that "got in the way" was backed by Mr Furey, who added that there was "very little democratic accountability".



BREAK TIME

Swimmers make a splash at contest

A GROUP of talented primary school children have been crowned champions of a swimming contest, despite being three team members down.

The youngsters from Leeds and Broomfield C of E Primary School entered the swimming gala with five students out of a possible eight.

The event, held at Maidstone Leisure Centre, in Mote Park, on Saturday, May 15, saw 16 schools participate, but the underdog team dived into first place.

Emma Horne, class teacher at the small primary school in Leeds village, said: "We are all very proud of our team. They did exceptionally well."

The winning team included Charli Hendy, Jack Wells, Laurie Lovis, Daisy Lovis and Bethany Tuff.

Poets win bin for thoughts on litter

THREE budding poets have helped raise awareness of the effects of litter and won their schools a novelty bin.

The year three pupils won the council-run competition after their poems about litter were picked by environmental services manager Jonathan Scott.

On Thursday, May 27, superhero Captain Clean visited each of the Maidstone-based schools to present the winners with their novelty bin prize.

The winners were Emily Nuttal from East Borough Primary School, Kirtsen Eke from Allington Primary School and Zuriel Adepoju from Loose Junior School.

High Fives as girls scoop the trophies in traditional game

■ BY ANNA WHITE

ATHLETIC students have won five trophies for a traditional sport revived at their school less than a year ago.

Two pupils from Sutton Valence School won the awards at the National Schools Girls Rugby Fives competition.

The game, which is similar to squash except the players wear padded gloves to hit the ball instead of a racquet, was played at the independent school for generations, but had stopped during the past years.

Teachers decided to revive the sport last year and it proved a hit with the students, two of who seem to have picked up the skills in a short space of time and now have a collection of trophies to prove it.

Emily Royer and Daisy Hollingsworth represented the school at the national competition on Sunday, May 16, held at Malvern College, Worcestershire.

Their performance on the court impressed the crowds, including the president and secretary of The Rugby Fives Association and the master in charge of fives at their school, Peregrine Nunes-Carvalho.

Mr Nunes-Carvalho said: "This was a superb effort on the part of both girls. Emily has only been playing fives a short while and was up against an opponent who plays regularly in the Malvern first team."

"Daisy, meanwhile, has only been playing for three months and this was her first match outside school."



GREAT START: From left, Peregrine Nunes-Carvalho with Emily Royer, Daisy Hollingsworth and head Bruce Grindlay

Fourteen-year-old Daisy, from Linton, soared through to the semi-finals of the main draws in the singles category and narrowly lost in the final.

Emily, 13, from Broomfield, won the under 14 singles title.

The duo also won the under 14 doubles title.

The pair was presented with the trophies in front of the whole school on Friday, May 21, by

headmaster Bruce Grindlay.

Mr Grindlay said: "There was a great deal of excitement when fives was revived at the school last year, and this was a great result from the nationals, when the girls were up against some very stiff competition."

Sutton Valence School is now hoping to host its own Rugby Fives competitions against Malvern College.

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SNOW GO: Roads turned to chaos in 2009 during one of the worst winters Kent had seen for 30 years

Winter was cold hard lesson for highway service

“DISJOINTED and poorly prepared” is how district council chiefs have described Kent’s response to the chaotic snowstorms of last winter.

Roads were gridlocked, ferries delayed and trains cancelled during the worst period of icy weather in more than 30 years, resulting in three “snow emergencies” being called between December and February.

And despite constant reassurances from Kent County Council that it was coping well with keeping the traffic moving, residents stuck for hours on motorways and in town centres remained unconvinced.

Their complaints have now been backed up by chief executives from some of the county’s district and borough councils, who took part in a consultation to judge how well the authority fared.

A new report reveals that when the snow first came down shortly before Christmas, the general consensus was that Kent Highway Services was “poorly prepared, without adequate plans in place”.

It added that “staff were not available and communication was poor for most districts, if not all”.

The councils also criticised the poor local knowledge of important priority routes for some areas, the “disjointed” nature of Kent Highways and the “ill-prepared” KCC call centre.

However, they did acknowledge that lessons were learned after the first period of snow and that improvements were made as

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

the poor weather continued.

Cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard admitted the council’s initial response to the snowfall was not perfect, and welcomed the criticism.

He said: “What I’m pleased about is that Kent Highway Services wants to improve.

“I think this is the first time we’ve properly consulted people and asked them what we did well, what we did less well and how we can improve.

“No it wasn’t perfect but it has enabled us to identify several areas where we clearly need to make improvements.

“Let’s be realistic – it was the worst winter for 30 years and I hope we don’t get another one like it for some time, but if we do we will be better prepared and people will have a clearer understanding of what they can expect from us.”

Cllr Chard’s winter service review revealed that between October and December, almost 13,700 tons of salt was used on Kent’s roads compared to an average of just over 8,100 tons during the same period for the previous four years.

During the cold snap, workmen at the council’s maintenance contractor Ringway were put on 24-hour duty while Kent Highways staff were placed on a rota to work weekends.

However, pavements throughout the county went for days without being gritted and there was a lack of communication between district councils and KCC about what roads should be targeted first.

right to feel cheated and frustrated.

“They will be paying higher fares than anywhere else in the country,” he said.

All other train companies are limited to a rise of RPI plus one per cent.

But officials at Southeastern said the three per cent figure was part of a franchise agreement, which had been in place for the last four years.

A spokesman said: “This is not necessarily the amount tickets will go up by – that is the most they are allowed to go up by.”

Time to SAVE county’s classic buildings

A LEADING conservation charity which highlights Britain’s best unloved properties has already seen a major success in Kent.

Every year, SAVE puts together a register of some of Britain’s finest buildings that are in need of tender love and care.

This year, while the catalogue was being prepared, St Edward’s Presbytery in Ramsgate was sold to the Landmark Trust.

Rhiannon Tracy, the buildings at risk officer for SAVE Britain’s Heritage, said: “We consider this a major success as it seems this fine building really will be maintained forever.

“This is just what we want to achieve. The buildings we have highlighted in Kent are all in need. Britain is losing enough classic properties as it is – we need to do more to save those that remain.”

Marcus Binney, a renowned architectural

historian and author, said: “Every year SAVE sets out on a treasure hunt to find a selection of ‘sleeping beauties’ across England and Wales.

“Any building type can qualify, so long as it is curious, interesting, unloved and crying out for a new owner or new use.”

Included in the new Live or Let Die catalogue is No 27 St Dunstan Street, Canterbury.

SAVE said of this property: “This early 16th century house has been vacant for five years and is neglected.

“The roof is in a bad condition and there is concern over possible structural movement. The house is being offered to let but cannot be occupied until restoration work is complete – for which planning permission is pending.”

For more information, subscribe, or to buy the catalogue for £15, visit www.savebritainsheritage.org.



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Rail travel could rise by three per cent

COMMUTERS could be faced with the highest train fare rises in the country – despite disappointing passenger numbers on the high-speed service on Kent lines.

Costs could go up by as much as three per cent above the retail price index (RPI), meaning annual season tickets from eastern parts of the county into London could rise by around £350.

Tunde Olatunji, Kent manager for Passenger Focus, an independent watchdog for rail users, said passengers are

yourletters



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YOUR LETTERS

Homeless to get helping hand with new initiative



Thanks for raising issue of the homeless

In your piece in last week's Yourmaidstone about homelessness you mention that there are two shelters in the town and say that Maidstone Day Centre, which was pictured together with Lily Smith House Hostel, has 42-bed spaces.

We are in fact a day centre with no accommodation – LSH Hostel next door does have accommodation, but we are a totally different and independent charity.

We have been working with homeless and vulnerable people in Maidstone for more than 20 years, helping them to deal with their problems be they drug/alcohol addiction or mental health and to find housing.

During the past 12 months we have housed 60 people who would otherwise still be sleeping rough, quite an achievement for our team.

We are always pleased to accept referrals from other organisations such as Porchlight and it is heart-warming to know there are so many of us in Maidstone who are working hard to make a difference.

We are keen to point out that homelessness is not a permanent state, as is often portrayed.

Yes, there are those clients of ours who are long-term rough sleepers because of their lifestyle issues, but a large number of the men and women who come to us for help do not have any drug/alcohol problems, they are simply going through a temporary rough patch in their lives, having lost their homes because of a job loss or relationship breakdown.

Finding accommodation for these people is a priority so they can start looking for work as employers rarely consider taking on people who do not have a home address.

Thanks for raising awareness of homelessness in Maidstone because the more it is talked about the more people may realise that it is not an 'us and them' situation, it could happen to any one of us.

Angela Clay, trustee at Maidstone Day Centre, by email

Help needed to keep wartime memories

Do you have a World War Two story to tell or do you know someone who does?

Perhaps you have an experience of evacuation, air raids, rationing or volunteering for the war effort that you would be willing to share.

We are launching an exciting oral

yourblogger

Simon Robinson explains why he's defecting from England during the World Cup...



"DEAR rest of the world, my name is Simon Robinson, I'm a 27-year-old football-loving journalist from England and I would like you to adopt me.

With the World Cup just nine days away, I've decided I no longer wish to go through the torment, anguish and despondency that come with being an ever-optimistic England supporter.

All I want is for one of the other 31 finalists to take me in and accept me as one of their own.

My only proviso is that you can't be a certified member of England's 'perennial underachievers' group. This rules you out Holland and Portugal.

I'm not necessarily looking for one of the big boys – take a bow Brazil, Germany and Spain – to adopt me temporarily; this isn't about winning.

I'm just sick of seeing England's world-class team of multi-millionaires go out of the competition with a whimper, on penalties, in the quarter finals. Again.

So come on the relative minnows of Mexico, Korea, Russia, Slovenia et al. I'm all yours.

I'll back anyone, so long as I don't have to go through another international football competition as a Three Lions badge-kissing Englishman.

My first proper taste of that crushing 'England have blown it' sensation came in Italia '90.

England's bid to win the cup came to a shuddering halt in the semi-finals, when those German penalty-

taking machines booted us back to Blighty.

France 1998 saw Argentina beat us on penalties in the first knock-out round.

Four years later we were undone in the quarter finals of the Korea/Japan World Cup when pony-tailed goalie David Seaman let Brazil's Ronaldinho timid freekick drift over him into the net.

Then at Germany 2006 it was back to the familiar penalty shoot-out heartbreak, this time Portugal took their turn to send us home at the quarter-final stage. Failure after failure.

I suppose our record speaks for itself and we – England football fans – should lower our expectations ahead of South Africa 2010 and be happy to notch up another quarter-final appearance.

But I can't do that.

We should be reaching the semi-finals on a regular basis. We should be brushing the weaker teams to one side, showing the footballing world that we, the inventors of the beautiful game, can play it!

But we all know it'll be the same old story come the first England game on Saturday, June 12; we'll scrape through the group stages with the pundits promising that the team will "deliver when it matters" followed by a dismal display in the quarters and yet another penalty shoot-out disaster.

I can't go through that again. And that's why I'm defecting to the Ivory Coast, New Zealand or Greece.

Presidents and Prime Ministers, feel free to get in touch. My contact details are below."

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

history project, Memories of War: New Narratives and Untold Stories.

As part of the project, we want to capture as many untold stories and personal experiences of Kent, Medway and London people as possible.

They will be preserved and contribute to a special Memories of War exhibition at the University of Greenwich in the autumn.

We are also looking for volunteers to help bring these stories alive, conducting and transcribing interviews and capturing those wartime memories.

If you are interested in being part of this social history project please email memoriesofwar@gre.ac.uk or phone 0208 331 7874. You can also write to Dr June Balshaw, at the University of Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College, Park Row, SE10 9LS.

Dr June Balshaw,
head of department, social, political and
cultural studies, University of Greenwich

Green Party calls for U-turn on academies

Power in education should go to schools, teachers and parents not sponsors.

The Green Party has publicly condemned proposals to offer all schools an academy status option.

There is clear evidence academies don't improve performance and can make it worse. The Green Party has always spoken in favour of greater freedom for the school to decide how it is run and the school curriculum.

However, this does not and must not mean putting the running of the school into the hands of a private sponsor who may know nothing about education, and taking the power away from parents and teachers who have little representation on the governing body at an academy.

Academies can see principals paid in excess of £120,000 whilst there is a high turnover of valued and committed staff lower down the pay scale as they are invited to reapply for their jobs on different pay scales.

Time and again Greens and others have asked why the freedoms and funding attached to academies cannot be given without the strings of creeping privatisation and millionaire sponsors attached. Yet no answer is given.

With the proposals of up to 25 per cent cuts across local authorities, inevitably affecting front-line staff, including teachers, we could be facing the situation of having new buildings without the teachers to go in them. Let's give the money directly to schools through greater investment and through bringing back BSF (Building Schools for the Future) money, trusting schools and teachers to know the best way to spend money to improve education.

Rachel Fryer, Green Party Education
Spokesperson, by email

Agnostics need more proof of God

As John R O'Neon rightly points

Answer needed for question of faith

I would like to comment on two letters in Yourmaidstone (Wednesday, May 5).

I agree in part with Ian Macmillan but totally disagree with Phil Granger, who asks the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, to put his faith in God. I would just like to ask both, and others who believe in God: If God made man, who made God? Any

out, there are many imponderables surrounding religious belief that prevent countless people placing their faith and trust in 'God'.

Obviously, 'If God made man, who made God?', which Mr O'Neon highlights, is the toughest poser of all, but there are other unanswerable questions that have prevented me from following any particular religion.

For instance, if God loves the world so much, why do we have to suffer devastating natural disasters and diseases responsible for massive loss of human life?

Another is why are some people afflicted from birth by terrible mental retardation and physical handicaps where they can neither speak, feed themselves or control their bodily functions?

Is being born with severe brain damage and quadriplegia a sign of God's love? I don't see how.

Also, if there is only one God and yet so many vastly different, conflicting religions, how can we

tell which one, if any, is true?

If an omnipotent creator exists, then why doesn't God appear on international television proving beyond doubt that he or she is real?

With the current lack of hard evidence supporting the existence of God, I suppose agnostics such as myself will have to remain faithless for the time being.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler

Sorry, but bishop has got it all wrong

Having his own axe to grind, Mr O'Neon totally missed the point of my letter regarding the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott.

The issue wasn't whether there was a god or not, it was whether the Bishop was contravening the Trades Description Act.

The Bishop claims to be a Christian, ie a follower of Christ. He also claims to be teaching Christ's beliefs to his flocks, a very heavy responsibility.

Yet just a cursory scan of Christ's ministry shows he made it quite clear the affairs of the world had no place among his followers.

He claimed his followers couldn't be part of this world system and also part of his kingdom (John 18:36, John 17:16, James 4:4, etc etc).

So the point wasn't whether you believe in Christ or not because the Bishop and the Anglican Church claim they do – the point was their falsification of what he taught to suit their own purposes.

Christ didn't live in a palace, wear the finest clothes and tell his followers they owed their allegiance to the rulers of the day.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Pie championships still good clean fun

The winning team from the World Custard Pie Championship, held on Sunday, May 23, was a team called High Pressure Cleaning who beat the reigning champions Coxheath Till I Pie by 65 points to 60 – it was a very close affair.

The German team Crazy Krautgirls who reach the semi-finals were a huge attraction with the crowd all afternoon.

It was a great renewal of the championship which was a fantastic free day out for visitors at Coxheath village hall.

Mike FitzGerald, organiser, by email

Surely prison service must solve problem?

How to stop all this drug dealing in prisons and mobile phones being smuggled into prisons.

How much would it cost to have a dog trained to sniff out drugs, one in each prison?

As far as mobile phones are concerned why don't they install a blocking system in prisons to stop the ability to get a connection inside?

Would this be so difficult?
Name and address supplied to the editor

Government cut in spending not such bad news for KCC

COUNCILS are to feel the strain of Government spending cuts after new Chancellor George Osborne announced £1.165 billion reductions nationwide in local authority grants.

But instead of condemning the massive cuts, authorities have welcomed the decision after Mr Osborne said in return councils would have more flexibility over their budgets.

Under the new Con-Lib coalition, ring-fencing of £1.7bn of Government grant funding will be scrapped for 2010-11.

It means officials at County Hall, which felt its hands were tied in terms of spending under the previous Government, will have a say over where money goes.

In Kent County Council's 2010-11 budget the total figure of Government grants – excluding schools funding – is £585,624,000.

Tory leader Cllr Paul Carter said although future cuts could be significant, councils will have more control on a local level.

“We’re essentially going to be freed up,” he said. “We won’t have to do some of Government’s prescribed projects as before where we had to spend specific grants on a, b or c. We can spend the money on our locality and our priorities.”



CUTS: George Osborne

Pioneering schools games to become national event

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A SCHOOL Olympics scheme pioneered in Kent and supported by double gold-medallist Dame Kelly Holmes is to be transformed into a national event.

The Con-Lib coalition confirmed in its programme for government last week that it would introduce an annual sports and athletics initiative for youngsters, which sports minister Hugh Robertson had earlier said would be based on the model for the highly-successful Kent School Games.

Launched in 2008, the brainchild of Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter is a bi-annual event enjoyed by thousands of pupils battling it out for supremacy in 38 different activities.

KCC cabinet member for communities Cllr Mike Hill – also a member of the Kent Campaign for the 2012 Games – welcomed the Government’s announcement.

He said: “We’re very pleased. We set up a little working group that Hugh Robertson (also the MP for Faversham and Mid Kent) and Derek Wyatt (former Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey) sat on, and they’ve been very helpful in advising us. I’m delighted these ideas have been taken forward onto a national level. The Kent School Games have been a great success for us.

“It takes a whole two years to run through all the heats and finals, but we are really encouraged by how well it has been received.

“Suddenly sports that have been in the doldrums are coming to the fore, and our schoolchildren are really embracing the positive ideals of the Olympic Games.”

The heats for the second Kent School Games started last year, with more than 30,000 pupils aged five to 16 – including those with disabilities – taking part. The finals will be held in July.

Prime Minister David Cameron revealed the first School Olympics would begin next year and climax with a session held at the new Olympic Stadium in 2012.

He said a key reason in creating the scheme was so that it helped to make sure the London 2012 Games benefit the entire country and not just the capital.

The news is sure to be welcomed by double gold-medallist and Hildenborough resident Dame Kelly Holmes, who told KOS Media in October that she wanted the Kent School Games model to be adopted by whichever party won the general election.

She said: “It was the mass participation and how so many people and agencies were running the events – the council, schools, teachers and young people that came on board.

“I thought it was absolutely brilliant and a great model to replicate around the country.

“I’ve been mulling over it. I’m always being asked my opinion or to back an initiative, and this was one of the things I was asked about and I said ‘yes’.”



WINNING WAYS: Olympic double-gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes has backed Kent School Games from start

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DAY & NIGHT

Duo play jazz classics

SINGER Karen Lane and guitarist Paul Malsom join forces for an evening of Brazilian-influenced jazz.

They will be performing classics such as Mas Que Nada and Nature Boy during the concert at Pizza Express in Maidstone at 8pm on Friday.

Tickets cost £12. To book call 0845 602 7017.

Debut album launched

ONE year after their first performance in Chatham's derelict Theatre Royal, the band of the same name launches its album.

On Saturday Theatre Royal will launch From Rubble Rises, at the Royal Function Rooms in Rochester, at 8pm.

For information about the band visit www.myspace.com/wearetheatreroyal.

Drama for half-term

CHILDREN can get involved in plays and drama workshops at Kings Theatre in Chatham.

Over half-term, Spotlites Theatre Productions presents Sleeping Beauty and the Time Lords, with workshops.

To find out more and book tickets, call 01634 829468 or visit the website at www.spotlites.co.uk.

Floyd hits live at pub

EXPERIENCE the live sound of a legendary band when Floyd in the Flesh performs in Gravesend.

The Ashford-based tribute group has built up a strong following, recreating the Floyd sound at pubs and the Dock Rock Festival. See them at The New Troc in Gravesend at 8pm on Friday. Details at www.myspace.com/floydintheflesh.

Follow town's art trail

DISCOVER quality art and the county town's hidden shopping delights with the Maidstone Art Trail.

The trail around 38 shops hosting 28 local artists, offering the chance to win an Artvark toy each week. It runs from this Saturday to Saturday, July 3. Sheets are available from the Hazlitt Arts Centre and online at www.mvan.info.

Hit musical on stage

PHOENIX Arts Company presents Half a Sixpence in Dartford this week.

Based on HG Wells' novel Kipps, the show was a hit for Tommy Steele. The amateur production can be seen at the Mick Jagger Centre from Thursday to Saturday. Performances start at 7.30pm with a 3pm matinee on Saturday. Tickets cost £10/£6.50. Book on 01322 221840.

Play to whet appetite

A JILTED wife uses food to get revenge on her ex in The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband.

Debbie Isitt's black comedy can be seen at Sittingbourne's Avenue Theatre at 8pm on Saturday. The play is not suitable for under-16s.

Tickets cost £6/£5.50. To book call the box office on 01795 471140.

Love at the castle for Bennet sisters

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Thursday, June 10, Friday, June 11 and Sunday, June 13
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone



ONE of literature's most famous heroines will be brought to life in a beautiful setting next week.

Elizabeth Bennet and her sisters bring their quest for love to Leeds Castle, when Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents an adaptation of Pride and Prejudice.

Arguably Jane Austen's most popular leading lady, Elizabeth has been delighting readers, television viewers and film fans for two centuries. Now she will be the star of an outdoor production in the grounds of historic Leeds Castle.

The acclaimed theatre company visits Kent as part of its garden theatre season and performs the play on the Pavilion Lawn, a romantic setting for this classic tale of love, marriage and misunderstandings.

Written in 1813, Pride and Prejudice was Austen's second novel and it remains a favourite with readers today, with its captivating wit and the feisty character of Elizabeth Bennet. Some sources claim the novel has sold more than 20 million copies to date and its popularity does not seem to be waning.

The second oldest of five sisters, Elizabeth is under pressure to marry a wealthy man in order to secure the family's future. At that time, women are unable to inherit estates, so the Bennet girls and their mother face destitution unless advantageous marriages can be made.

While the loud and embarrassing Mrs Bennet sets about finding suitable candidates, Elizabeth and her older sister Jane declare that they will only marry for love. At first Mrs Bennet is distraught at their lack of co-operation, but things seem to be looking up when two eligible bachelors move into the neighbourhood.

The charming Mr Bingley soon appears to be smitten with Jane and the feeling is mutual, so it looks like a happy ending could be on the cards. But when Elizabeth advises Jane on how to behave towards her potential husband, misunderstandings ensue and Mr Bingley suddenly departs, leaving Jane heartbroken.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth gets on the wrong side of Bingley's cold and aloof friend, Mr Darcy. As she strives to unite Bingley and her sister, Elizabeth finds that she may have to confront her prejudices against the distant and proud Darcy.

With a charming young soldier and an oily cousin also looking for love, the Bennets have plenty to contend with in this funny, intriguing and tender story.

Boasting one of the most famous opening lines of all time – 'it is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife' – Pride and Prejudice has inspired a number of adaptations. These include the 1940 film starring Laurence Olivier and Greer Carson, fol-



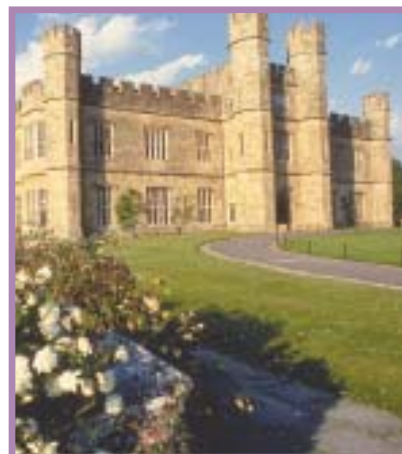
lowed by a new version in 2005, in which Keira Knightley gave an Academy Award-nominated performance as Elizabeth.

Perhaps the most fondly-remembered adaptation is the 1995 BBC television series, starring Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle.

Now in its 11th year of touring across the UK and Ireland, Chapterhouse Theatre Company has performed at many country houses, castles and beautiful heritage sites. The company has staged many Shakespearean plays, along with Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and The Mystery Plays.

In 2004, they produced ART, directed by actor Nigel Havers and the first West End show ever to tour in the open air.


Pride and Prejudice will be performed at 7pm on Thursday and Friday and at 4.30pm on Sunday. Tickets cost £15 for adults and £12 for children. To book call 01622 765400 or visit the website at www.leeds-castle.com.



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FUN flirty rock chic, curvy size 12 seeks likeminded male to share special times and bring sunshine into her life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333605 

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LOVELY chic free spirited green eyed blonde, feminine, seeks professional, romantic, well spoken male with a love of life for good times, fun and travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333625

PAULETTE 63, shy, outgoing, long hair, green eyes, likes dogs, walks, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379482 


TRACY 31, 5ft 1ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, bubbly, GSOH, 2 children, likes animals, seeks genuine, trustworthy, honest male, 35-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379552


SANDRA 60, bubbly widow WLTW loving male who knows how to treat a lady for good conversation and relaxed fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333631 

GEORGIE 45, cuddly bubbly blonde, seeks laid back guy to chill out, share adult conversation and relaxing no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333629 

BEAUTIFUL vivacious female seeks kind hearted, affectionate guy to come home and share relaxing evenings together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333627 

JUDY youthful slim nurse 45, no ties, can't wait to raise the temperature of a discreet, experienced, confident guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333625 


KAREN 50, 5ft 2ins, medium build, young at heart, active, smoker, likes horses, no ties, seeks nice male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379510 

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332607 


ELAINE 51, petite, curvy, shy, sensitive and nicely wicked, looking to meet a well built guy for tactile, loving relationship. AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332605 

KAREN 39, statuesque brunette, seeks very tall, well built male for uncomplicated relationship with a real woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332603 

ELIZABETH 58, attractive, sensitive, caring, young outlook, seeks similar tactile guy to share good times, fun and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332601 

BLACK female, N/S, 44, 5ft 5ins, likes cinema, cooking, seeks N/S white, kind, honest, loving male, 48-56 with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333279 

SMART happy female, 5ft 6ins, likes documentaries, films, meals out, wine, conversation, seeks tall, professional gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332725 

40YR old rock fan, likes animals, country walks, gigs, seeks kind male, 40-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333095 

LADY 60's, slim, young minded, N/S, likes gardening, meals out, country walks, holidays, theatre, seeks male, 55-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332749

LARGER 26yr old lady, dark hair, looking for anyone to make her laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332721 

HEATHER 36, tall blue eyed brunette, shy, but always up for a laugh, looking to let her hair down with a tall, romantic male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332633 


HAYLEY 22, bubbly blue eyed blonde, tattoos and piercings, loves to live to the full, seeking exciting male, up for anything, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332631 


JANINE 43, stunning slim, blue eyed blonde WLTW tall male to get to know, share romantic candlelight dinners, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332627 


SEDUCTIVE saucy blue eyed blonde seeks happy go lucky male for lots of fun and attention. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332625 

ATTRACTIVE slim, blonde female, young 48, 5ft 6ins, no ties, seeks outgoing, friendly male, 45-55 for friendship hopefully LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379340

CAROL Ann, 52, attractive stylish brunette, bubbly and chatty seeks dark, Christian male to enjoy life, love and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331381 

SPECIAL gent sought by lady in 60's, N/S, no drinker for happiness and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330927 

DIANNE 38, fun feisty brunette, WLTW genuine dishy guy to share days and hopefully nights with. AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331401 

ELIZABETH 66, young looking blonde, no ties, great company seeks understanding male who would like to share lazy lunches, good times and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331397 

CHRISTIAN lady, 45, 5ft 4ins, cuddly, dark hair, attractive, gentle, seeks kind, Christian male of similar age for maturity and kindness in friendship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379018

46YR old lady, slim, likes cooking, seeks caring, tall male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379032


SASKIA 43, stylish, very attractive with long blonde hair seeks attractive tall trendy guy for fun friendship with lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331395 

MARY 50, petite with green eyes and dark hair, lovely curves seeks bubbly outgoing male who is full of surprises to make and keep life and love interesting. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330887 

BEAUTIFUL long haired brunette, loves life, very friendly seeks lovely romantic, younger male with plenty of imagination for lots of kisses, cuddles and possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330885 

PAULA 40, vibrant, down to earth, loves the sun, will try anything once seeks similar sensual male for some fresh air fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331405 


KELLY 26, beautiful shapely brunette, likes wild nights out but prefers chillin in with a nice bottle wine, good conversation and intimate moments, seeks similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330863 

WINNIE small, sweet and full of love for life, seeks lively mature male to share TLC, romance, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330859 

JENNY 23, shapely, understanding brunette, loves nights out and quiet times in, seeks tall older male who is haired male who is up for an energetic without complications. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330857 

ANNE 46, slim, N/S, honest, reliable, seeks male, 42-50, N/S, slim-medium build. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330029 

CAROLE 55, young looking blonde, voluptuous, but not too much to handle! WLTW mainly male who is up for some no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330883 

TRUDI 47, sensual slim blonde who thinks life is too short to be alone, seeks someone special to show her what she's missing. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330881 

MANDY 40, very fit, attractive brunette, great curves, seeks hunky, sporty, dark haired male who is up for an energetic no strings relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330865 


ATTRACTIVE lady, late 50's, lively, outgoing, bubbly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330793 

LIZZIE attractive, blonde, young 60, likes outdoors, seeks gent, 50-65, N/S with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379070

PROFESSIONAL female, fun loving, late 40's, likes outdoor life, meals out, nights, seeks professional male, under 60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329011 


ATTRACTIVE young looking female, late 50's, 5ft 8ins, reddish hair, likes outdoors, theatre, seeks tall, N/S dark haired gent for lasting relationship. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378612 

NEED some company? Norma still has what it takes to have a good time seeks broadminded male. Discretion appreciated. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329185 

JAYNE 28, model mum of three, 5ft 5ins, blue eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, cooking, dancing, fashion, music, swimming, seeks male, 35-45 for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378664 

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329179 


65YR old female, slim, wavy hair, kind, likes walks, nature, animals, seeks kind caring male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378800

MARGARET adventurous, well preserved professional, loving, kind, with many interests, seeks a younger male for fun times. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329183 

AMANDA voluptuous loving brunette, no ties, seeking sensual, discreet, tactile male who would love her just as she is. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329181 

I love rock and roll. Dance partner needed for lovely slim blonde in Hove, 5ft 7ins, 50 plus, no ties, needs nice, intelligent guy 50 plus, tall, no ties who wants to boogie and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378984 

JODIE 45, slim green eyed blonde with lots to offer to Mr Right, seeks that passionate male to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331373 


5FT 2ins blonde female, blue eyes, petite, seeks male, 45-55 who is caring, affectionate, funny and romantic. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330271 


VOLUPTUOUS black lady, very loving and romantic, no ties, seeks fun, friendly male for a very laid back relationship. Race/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330439 

LORRAINE 25, 5ft 5ins, black hair, brown eyes, outgoing, likes swimming, meals out, music, shopping, seeks female, 30-60 with GSOH and great personality. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378760 


ELLIE very affectionate, slim but curvy, Auburn hair, hazel eyes, no ties, lives life to the full, seeks mature male for friendship/more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329189 


LINDA short and sweet, blonde hair blue eyes seeks warm, genuine male for fun, romance and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329187 

BARBARA petite young at heart female, fun to be with, seeks inspirational younger male to end her loneliness and spice up her life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331377 

KIM 41, cuddly bubbly good time girl, likes wild nights out, cosy nights in, seeks energetic male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 331375 

BEV 41, gorgeous, bored, green eyed blonde, looking for fun nights in or out with discreet man who can turn a spark into a fire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 330435 

ANNE semi retired nurse, 5ft 6ins, slim, N/S, varied interests, seeks male friend, 40-72 with whom I can socialise. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329071 

DEBBIE 45, slim, green eyes, dark hair, honest, kind, seeks male in late 40's who is honest, caring and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329029 


LOVELY bubbly female, 47, 5ft 6ins, brown hair, blue eyes, caring, honest, GSOH, likes pubs, cinema, meals out, cooking, seeks male, 38-49 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329445 

SHY easygoing 32yr old female, seeks caring guy, 32-40 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329469

TERESA 44, brunette, blue eyes, fuller figured, easygoing, likes a laugh, cuddles, seeks soul mate for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328579 

ROSE gorgeous chocolate brown queen, independent and hardworking seeks tall, good looking professional guy to honest, intimate times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328717 


EASYGOING blonde looking for someone who appreciates a real woman. Looks/age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378444

LOVELY female 46, enjoys pubs, eating out, cinema, cooking, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, seeks male, 39-49 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 325167 


ROMA active, down to earth, always on the go seeks tall sexy guy who is up for a real challenge with a real woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328155 


LORRAINE 25, 5ft 5ins, black hair, brown eyes, outgoing, likes swimming, meals out, music, shopping, seeks female, 30-60 with GSOH and great personality. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378760 

TODAY gone, tomorrow unknown. Lady 60, N/S, genuine, honest, seeks similar gent for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 329209 

SASHA 2 children, honest, caring, fun, likes socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328541 


MEN seeking women


HOVE male, 61, divorced, easygoing, GSOH, likes music, seaside, cinema, shows, photography, seeks likeminded female for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379526 

NICE guy 35, 5ft 5ins, short dark hair, hazel eyes, slim, seeks nice female with GSOH for friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379492 

MALE 40, fit seeks female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333385 

GARY 47, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, brown hair, easygoing, likes nights in/out, dvds, seeks young female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333529 


MAL 6ft, gorgeous, handsome, faithful, loyal, trustworthy, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333225 


DAVID 52, 5ft 10ins, balding, likes golf, countryside, days out, holidays, seeks female for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333219 


MALE 55, likes travel, dogs, countryside, coast, seeks female for friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333189 


TALL upbeat male, mid 50's, adventurous spirit, seeks female, 45 or younger for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 328583 


ANDY 47, slim, honest, tanned, African, likes cooking, pool, pubs, nights in/out, seeks nice female, 30-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379604 

ANDY mature 50, own home, seeks female, 40-60 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379560 

JOHN 47, 6ft, dark hair, GSOH, seeks young, attractive female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379480 

MICHAEL 59, seeks female, 55-65 for cuddles, kisses, TLC and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332565 

NORMAL well adjusted chap, 50, GSOH, seeks similar female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332855 

YOUNG at heart male, 51, 5ft 7ins, brown hair, fit, sporty, romantic, seeks similar female, 46-56 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332843 

TIM 48, medium build, short dark hair, likes walks, music,

yourleisure

with
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PLUCK

Sunday, June 6. Orchard Theatre, Dartford



DISCOVER a classical music trio with a seriously silly side when Pluck returns to Kent.

Following the success of their first show, Musical Arson, the trio is taking The Specialists on tour. Witness their musical chemistry as three highly talented musicians perform a spoof classical concert with real style.

The Specialists is directed by Cal McCrystal, who has also worked on Cirque du Soleil and The Mighty Boosh. In one irreverent and hilarious performance, they destroy preconceptions about the typical genteel concert.

Since forming in 2002, Pluck has become a global sensation and played at sold-out venues across Europe, Australia, America and the Far East. They have wowed the crowds at five Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, played the Big Brother theme tune live on Channel Four and interviewed the Slovenian president in a boxing ring. From a crowd of 8,000 people to dancing with hospital patients, Pluck has performed in diverse venues.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets £20.50/£16.50. Book at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call 01322 220000.



SHOW ME WITH CHRIS AND PUI

Friday, June 4, Central Theatre, Chatham



A TREAT is in store for young theatregoers when children's television favourites Chris and Pui visit Medway.

Introduce your pre-school children to live theatre by taking them to see the CBeebies presenters in action. The double act has been delighting viewers of BBC and ITV children's programmes for more than 16 years and the fun continues with their latest show, CBeebies' Show Me Show Me.

Full of songs, sketches and stories, it has been a big hit and now audiences can enjoy the magic in a live setting. Children

can bring their favourite toy, join in some fun games, sing popular songs and learn about various musical instruments. Chris Jarvis and Pui Fan Lee will be giving autographs at the end of the show.

Jarvis began his television career in the famous CBBC Broom Cupboard, while Fan Lee's claims to fame include being the voice of the Teletubbies' Po.

The show starts at 2pm and tickets cost £9/£8 or £30 for families. To book call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.

GERRY K AT THE COMEDY CLUB

Friday, June 4, Bridgewood Manor, Chatham



A TRIO of top comics will be generating the giggles at The Comedy Club later this week.

Scottish dynamo Paul Pirie will be acting as MC for the evening and keeping the show moving along, while entertaining the crowd with his brand of acclaimed comedy. He took second place in the 2006 Scottish Comedian of the Year Award and his first solo show, I Pirie the Fool, was a sell-out success at the Glasgow Comedy Festival.

Pierre Hollins opens the night with an act that will show why he is considered one of comedy's unsung heroes, complete with his electric squash racket which enables him to live out his rock star dreams.

The headline act is honest and energetic Gerry K, whose anecdotal comedy has been raising the roof since 2003. He has appeared in The Bill and Angelo's and his awards include The Comedy Stores' King Gong, Metrolife Comedy Newcomer and The Comedy Cafe Best Newcomer Award.

The show, which is suitable for over-18s, starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £22.95 including a two-course meal and disco. To book call 01634 201333 or visit www.hahaheehhe.com.



SUZY BOGGUSS

Friday, June 4. Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



ONE of country music's most successful female singers, Suzy Bogguss is a must-see performer.

Bogguss has certainly come a long way since the early days when, as a yodelling singer from Illinois, she drove from gig to gig in a camper van before heading for Nashville.

Her first low-budget album was made with Wendy Waldman and the following year Jim Foglesong, president of Capitol Nashville, signed Bogguss as soon as he heard the record.

One platinum album and three gold albums followed, but Bogguss eventually left the record company to focus on raising her son.

A couple of years ago, she returned to the music world and it appears that her music has lost none of its appeal. Combining country, folk, swing and pop, she has created an enduringly popular sound and for her latest album, Sweet Danger, she worked with jazz producer Jason Miles. The album includes a cover version of Peter Cetera's If You Leave Me Now, with a new folk twist.

The concert starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £18. To book call Maverick Live on 01622 744481.



BUG AND NATURE WEEK

Until Sunday, June 6. Kent Life, Maidstone

NEW attractions at Kent Life this half-term will give visitors the creeps and send them on a journey of discovery.

Until Thursday young visitors have the chance to get up close and personal with cockroaches, giant snails and a snake in the Creepy Crawly Cuddle Corner. Face your fears and find out more about these intriguing creatures as a thrilling highlight to your half-term break.

There are tasty treats to be won by those who complete the new Wildlife Discovery Trail and other activities include junior quad bikes, donkey rides, face painting and the chance to get creative by painting a pot.

At 2.45pm each day the piglet racing gets underway and Kent Life's famous resident, Bella the shire horse, will be appearing in her plaits throughout the week.

Families can enjoy a great day out for less, since Kent Life announced that admission is now free for children aged under four. Tickets cost £8.50/£7.50 for adults and £6.50 for children. Kent Life is open from 10am to 6pm daily.

To find out more call 01622 763936 or visit www.kentlife.org.uk.



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Snappy summer phones



Nokia X6

Nokia's newbie offers a big touchscreen at the front and a five megapixel camera at the back with a top notch Carl Zeiss lens. The white case option looks up to the minute, it has a good MP3 player and makes this a genuine iPhone rival for the summer. And if it does rain, there's a double LED flash for pictures... or you can watch the built in BBC iPlayer.

A cracking phone a real star from Nokia



Pin sharp: The X6's pictures have good saturation and contrast

Camera	8/10
Music player	7/10
Ease of use	8/10
Value for money deals	6/10
Style	10/10



Popping colours: Picture quality is great but the Vivaz's video is the best here, possibly the best on any mobile phone

Sony Ericsson Vivaz

The Vivaz is the latest offering by Sony Ericsson and it's already proving a winner for style and lightness. Its 8.1 megapixel camera sets the standard, shoots panoramas – taking three snaps that join together for wide vistas – and offers HD quality video.

A large touchscreen and brilliant music player from the inventors of the Walkman make this phone top of the desirable list.

Camera	9/10
Music player	8/10
Ease of use	7/10
Value for money deals	9/10
Style	9/10

Summer's here at last and a good cameraphone makes it easy to capture all those special times. New mobile phones which have top notch cameras give users picture quality that matches, and often exceeds, some dedicated compact cameras.

Look out for five megapixel or above which means decent quality snaps and should ensure it takes quality video too. And the best cameraphones make it easy for you to upload your pictures or videos straight to Youtube, Facebook, Picasa or Flickr – so you can share the moment with people anywhere.

Yourstyle tested some of the best and here's our pick of this summer's cameraphones



Acceptable: But this phone makes sharing easy across social networks

Camera	6/10
Music player	7/10
Ease of use	9/10
Value for money deals	9/10
Style	6/10

Motorola Dext



A five megapixel camera but no flash means the Dext is best used outside. But it earns its place here through brilliant access to all your social networks, and a dedicated keyboard for super-fast texting. Its music player, is first class and you can add storage with a microSD card and, best of all, this £300 Android phone can be nabbed at Orange for a bargain £149 on pay as you go.



Impressive: Picture quality is up there with the best on Samsung's top cameraphone

Samsung M8800 Pixon

The company's best cameraphone with an 8.1 megapixel camera. Good touchscreen with top quality pictures and decent on-screen keyboard. It showed occasional reluctance to link to the internet by WiFi but it worked well. A capable phone that's cheap because it's not seen as a trend setter.

Some great contract deals available mean the phone is almost free.



Camera	8/10
Music player	6/10
Ease of use	9/10
Value for money deals	8/10
Style	5/10



2010 KENT CARAVAN EXHIBITION



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Don't miss the fabulous New Beach caravan exhibition all this week. Bring the family for a fun filled day and experience holiday home ownership at one of Kent's most popular parks.

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- Park shop and launderette

COME AND SEE OUR **FREE CARAVAN!**



YES we have a limited number of caravans to give away! We'll give you the caravan, all you have to pay is insurance and this seasons site fees and you can use your holiday home for the rest of this season!
Viewing strictly by appointment only and first come, first served!

Here's just a small selection of holiday homes available to own

FIRST TIME BUYER BARGAIN!



26x10ft starter caravan with lounge, kitchen / diner, shower room and two bedrooms. This is a tidy caravan and ideal if you're looking for an affordable holiday home to get away during the summer.

From
£4,995

Atlas Festival 34x10ft



Fantastic starter holiday home for the first time buyer. Lounge, kitchen / dining area, shower room, two good bedrooms and can sleep up to 6. This holiday home is wheel chair accessible and a bargain.

From
£6,200

2006 Delta Santana 28x10ft



The perfect static for people looking to own their very own holiday home. Lots of room for all the family, sleeps up to six. Spacious lounge and dining area with fitted seating. Modern kitchen, bathroom and 2 bedrooms. Perfect for subletting.

From
£8,150

STAR BUY!

2008 BK Grosvenor 37x12ft



This luxury holiday home is as new and in immaculate condition throughout. This model offers the very best in holiday home luxury. Modern style lounge with feature fire place, dining area with dining table and four chairs, stylish kitchen with a range of fitted units, oven, hob and fridge freezer. A hallway leads to two generous bedrooms and an en-suite shower room.

This holiday must be seen to be appreciated!

From
£33,150

BK Contessa 35x12ft



This stunning holiday home is ideal for the larger family! Very spacious model with 3 generous bedrooms, family bathroom, lounge with dining area and modern fitted kitchen with appliances. Can accommodate up to 8 people.

From
£9,150

2003 Carnaby Belvedere 35x12ft



On a great pitch close to the entertainment complex and only yards away from the beach access. Very good condition throughout and comprising of lounge with feature fire place and modern kitchen with dining area. Bathroom with modern suite and 3 bedrooms.

From
£15,550

2002 BK Caprice 36x12ft



A lovely 2 bedroom caravan with new patio and upvc skirting sited on a large, quiet plot away from the main complex. Lounge with freestanding suite, a modern kitchen with a range of units, range style cooker and fridge. Two generous bedrooms and shower room complete this holiday home. First to see will buy!

From
£17,750

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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	29°C	New York	27°C
Barcelona	25°C	Paris	16°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	24°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	20°C
Gibraltar	25°C	Vancouver	14°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	15°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	10°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	7:06am 4.9m	Sunday	8:04am 4.8m
Dover	Saturday	5:54pm 5.5m	Sunday	6:41am 5.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	5:56pm 6.1m	Sunday	6:36am 5.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	6:06am 4.0m	Sunday	7:11am 3.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	6:55am 4.8m	Sunday	7:52am 4.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	6:58am 4.5m	Sunday	7:55am 4.4m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	14°C	20°C	21°C	23°C	22°C
Canterbury	15°C	18°C	20°C	21°C	21°C
Chatham	14°C	18°C	19°C	20°C	21°C
Dartford	15°C	21°C	22°C	24°C	23°C

Dover	13°C	16°C	18°C	21°C	19°C
Faversham	14°C	18°C	19°C	20°C	21°C
Folkestone	13°C	16°C	18°C	21°C	19°C
Gillingham	14°C	18°C	19°C	20°C	21°C

Gravesend	15°C	21°C	22°C	24°C	23°C
Maidstone	15°C	20°C	22°C	23°C	23°C
Ramsgate	15°C	18°C	20°C	21°C	21°C
Rochester	14°C	18°C	19°C	20°C	21°C

Sevenoaks	13°C	19°C	21°C	22°C	22°C
Sittingbourne	14°C	18°C	19°C	20°C	21°C
Tonbridge	14°C	20°C	22°C	23°C	23°C
Tun Wells	14°C	20°C	22°C	23°C	23°C



SUNRISE 4.42am SUNSET 9.05pm



MOONRISE 12.21am MOONSET 10.00am

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THIS summer, between June 16-29, 2010 Swag Jeweller at Bluewater, Europe's leading retail and leisure destination, will be holding a 'One Special Ring' event, where an additional 250 designs will be added to its extensive collection, giving brides and grooms to be the best choice of rings all under one roof.

The highly skilled inhouse Goldsmith, Frank Hunt is also available by appointment to accommodate the 'Bespoke Design' wedding ring service for the ultimate personal touch.

Swag, London's leading Independent family jeweller has been running for 36 years. The belief and passion has always been to offer beautiful jewellery in an environment that is welcoming and professional, with staff trained to the highest level, offering advice and information to all.



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for the bridal party to engagement and wedding rings.

To celebrate this fantastic event, Swag has joined with KOS Media to offer you the chance to win one of THREE Swag gift vouchers. We are giving away £250, £100 and £50 gift vouchers

which will be redeemable at Swag Jeweller, Bluewater.

To be in with a chance of winning simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to SWAG Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is June 10, 2010.

Question: What is the name of Swag's in-house Goldsmith?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. Terms & conditions apply. Redeemable at Swag Bluewater only. Not transferable for Cash. No change will be issued from any transaction, any monies left after a purchase will be transferred to another gift voucher for that amount.

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yourmusic

Third stage adds to Hop farm fun



TOP NAMES: Van Morrison is headlining on the main stage on the Friday night

■ BY JON COATES

THE line-up for this summer's Hop Farm Festival is as good as any other music event in the UK, says organiser Vince Power.

The music promoter is confident that this year's festival in Paddock Wood will be one to remember.

Mr Power feels the Hop Farm event has found its niche in its third year and is now here to stay.

He expects Saturday's bill topped by Bob Dylan to sell out its 30,000 tickets, with 20,000 tickets being sold for the Friday line-up headlined by Van Morrison.

On the Saturday main stage, Dylan will be supported by Ray Davies, Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Peter Doherty, Laura Marling, Johnny Flynn, The Magic Numbers and Foy Vance.

Van Morrison headlines on Friday, supported by Blondie, Los Lobos, Imelda May and Damien Dempsey.

Dr John and The Lower 911 have now been added to this bill and will be the second support before Blondie and Van Morrison.

The Big Tent stage on Friday will host Afro Celt Sound System, Richard Thompson, Peter Green & Friends, and Sweet Billy Pilgrim, with Sparrow And The Workshop, and Paris Riots added.

Organisers announced two weeks ago that a third stage was being added to the event, but we can now reveal that festival goers will also be able to enjoy a comedy show and a campsite area hosting acoustic performances.

The third stage is being called the Bread & Roses stage and the line-up includes The Ruskins, Hoodlums and Billy Vincent.

It will also host a comedy show featuring Bob Mills, Keith Platt and Ian Cognito.

Mr Power added: "Every festival I have done has taken between three and five years to get on the festival map and for people to see it as here to stay."

"With the Hop Farm having legends mixed with great new acts like Mumford & Sons and Laura Marling is the way to go."

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ON: Whitstable outfit Flipsitch perform their track Position Politician



SMALL GIG: Smugglers Records at the Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Flipsitch - 5/6 Walmer Castle Pub in Deal
- 2 CWB - 13/6 Sellindge Music Festival
- 3 The Suspects - 24/6 Earls in Maidstone
- 4 Gristlefridge - 3/7 Command House, Chatham
- 5 Happy Daze - 10/7 The Share & Coulter in Herne Bay

The promoter had planned to hold the Hop Farm Festival on just the Saturday and arrange a separate event on the Sunday.

This would have been called the Pop Farm Festival and would have been aimed at a younger audience.

But Mr Power said he was forced to shelve this idea as he missed a couple of the big acts he was aiming for, but a two-day Hop Farm and one-day Pop Farm events could be on for next year.



OPULENCE: The golf course at the Aphrodite Hills Resort in Cyprus, and below, the resort's luxurious Retreat Spa will please non-golfers

yourgetaways

Pack up your clubs and head for secret paradise

■ BY DOMINIC PICKSLEY

IF YOU'RE heading to the Mediterranean for a spot of golf, forget booking a hotel in Portugal or Spain – try Cyprus instead.

For years, Portugal and Spain have enjoyed something of a monopoly on the finest golfing destinations in the Mediterranean, but they may be about to face quite a challenge from Cyprus.

When it comes to golf, Cyprus is the new kid on the block. It only boasts three courses, but there are ambitious plans for another 14 in the next few years to turn the island into another golfer's paradise.

If the impressive courses at Aphrodite Hills, Secret Valley and Minthis Hills are anything to go by, Cyprus is well on its way to becoming a utopia for golfers of all abilities.

I teed off my experience at the opulent surroundings of the Aphrodite Hills Resort, a fabulous five-star development on a plateau overlooking Petra tou Romiou, the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

The resort oozes elegance, but for 150 euros a round, you expect something special! Built on a mountain, it is separated by a dramatic ravine, so buggies are essential to complete the course in a day.

Aphrodite Hills has plenty for golf widows and families too. It also features a first-class tennis academy, a beach club, and a multi-purpose sports court for children, with everything from volleyball to mini-football.

The surrounding region is steeped in local history and culture. Taste the local vintage at a nearby winery

FACT FILE: CYPRUS

Dominic was a guest of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and flew Cyprus Airways (from London, Manchester and Birmingham) Reservations: 020 8359 1333 and www.cypriusair.com.

Operators to Aphrodite Hills Resort include Olympic Holidays, which offers seven nights' half-board from £900 with return flights ex-Gatwick June 2, incl transfers.

Olympic Holidays reservations: 0844 576 2386 and www.OlympicHolidays.com. Further resort information: www.aphrodite-hills.com.

Destination enquiries: Cyprus Tourism Organisation (020 7569 8800 and www.visitcyprus.com). Columbia Beach Resort Pissouri



(www.columbia-hotels.com) operates free bus to the golf courses. Junior garden view suites start at 195 euros per night.

Almyra Hotel (www.almyra.com) has garden view rooms from 160 euros per room per night.

Details of Secret Valley and Minthis Hills courses available on www.cypriusgolf.com.

and wine museum, or try your hand-iwork at workshops which turn out traditional Cypriot clay pots.

Next up was Secret Valley Golf Club, a short drive from Aphrodite Hills, and a course within a colourful, picturesque valley. An 'easier' proposition than the previous day, but hardly one to be taken lightly.

Although less glamorous than Aphrodite Hills, Secret Valley still had an air of grandeur, set in a natural amphitheatre with the hills looming up to create a bowl.

It felt the most 'British' of the three – and the rain we encountered made us feel decidedly British too.

While we got drenched by the heavy downpour – rare in these parts, but welcome for the rain-starved country – this was Cyprus, so we were soon dry and the round was completed in bright sunshine.

We then moved up the road to Paphos, a city festooned in history

and an archaeology lover's delight, whether it be the immaculately preserved mosaics at the House of Dionysus near the popular harbour, or the World Heritage site of the Tombs of the Kings.

Our final golfing destination was Minthis Hills near the village of Tsada, just 15km north-east of Paphos, another venue of breathtaking beauty.

At an altitude of 550 metres above sea level and with meandering hills all around, Minthis provides a stunning vista of the Cypriot countryside and offers a challenging 18 holes.

Enjoying the beautiful Cypriot sunshine and countryside was a delight in itself, but to do it while playing a round was pure heaven.

If you're seeking a new challenge, Cyprus is definitely the place to take your clubs to.

And make it snappy before the secret's out.

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Comic book heroes take on their nemesis in high-action comedy

■ BY DAMON SMITH

A COUPLE of months ago, Matthew Vaughn's hyper-violent Kick-Ass somersaulted over the graves of Watchmen and X-Men Origins: Wolverine.

This box office success proved that comic book-inspired action movies can be every bit as smart and sassy as the cult pictorials they are based on.

Director Sylvain White continues the good work with *The Losers*, an explosive romp based on the potty-mouthed DC Comics series written by Andy Diggle and illustrated by Jock.

From its lurid opening frames, White's film embraces a heightened reality with bold, colourful graphics and exaggerated violence, coupled with snappy dialogue lifted from the page by screenwriters Peter Berg and James Vanderbilt.

They jettison most of the swearing to secure a family-friendly 12A certificate without sacrificing the big laughs or the bigger bangs, although one steamy bedroom scene might convince parents to leave small children with the babysitter.

Elite Special Forces commander Clay and his team oversee the bombing of a drugs factory in the jungles of Bolivia.

Having given the order to attack, Clay spots a bus full of children arriving at the compound.

Unable to call off the airstrike, Clay rallies the troops: communications and tech wizard Jensen, demolitions and tactical expert Roque (played by *The Wire*'s Idris Elba), transportation and heavy weapons operative Pooch and long-range eliminations specialist Cougar.

They rescue the tykes in the nick of time only to see their escape transport blasted to smithereens by criminal mastermind Max.

"That was supposed to be us," growls Clay. A mysterious US operative called Aisha



READY FOR ACTION: *The Losers* have made the move from the comic books to the big screen and they're looking for revenge on criminal mastermind Max

(played by *Avatar*'s Zoe Saldana) promises to smuggle the entire squad back on to American soil if they hunt down and kill Max.

So the highly-trained men return from the dead to capture their nemesis.

In the process, the men stumble upon an even bigger conspiracy, involving particle bombs that can raze an entire island in seconds.

The Losers is a rollicking romp, which would be around ten minutes leaner if director White was more judicious with slow motion in his action sequences.

Set pieces are breathlessly orchestrated, cul-

minating in an overblown showdown at the dockyards, and the machine-gun banter is riddled with snappy one-liners.

Jensen and Pooch monopolise the belly laughs, the latter playing up to his image as a goofball in scenes such as the one when Jensen performs a quick change in a lift and quite literally gets caught by four women with his trousers down.

Max is a fantastic pantomime villain; a cold, unflinching murderer who is poorly versed in social niceties.

"How have you been?" he asks one business contact.

"I've recently attended the funeral of my best friend who you threw off a roof. How are you?" retorts the underling sarcastically.

The door is left wide open for a sequel, so if *The Losers* prove to be box-office winners, Clay and his team will be back, armed with even bigger guns and quips. So, forget the rest of those comic book turned big-budget film disasters, *The Losers* is a winner.

THE LOSERS 
Certificate 12A

PICTURE BBC



MAIN MAN: Young hopefuls learn from Lord Alan Sugar in BBC's *Junior Apprentice*



YOUR TV REVIEW

JUNIOR APPRENTICE: BBC One, 9pm, Wednesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

MY 'rubbish spin-off alarm' went off at maximum volume when I saw the first trailer for the *Junior Apprentice*.

However, those fears were allayed after the first episode because it's a good show and certainly not the car crash it could've been.

The format is the same as the standard version, which shows the suits saw no need to tinker with a winning format, although there are slightly fewer candidates.

Alan Sugar is harsh but fair as ever, and new observer Karen Brady has settled in nicely.

The producers have scoured the country to find 16 and 17-year-old candidates and have unearthed a varied and talented bunch.

Who will take the prize (that being access to a £25,000 fund toward a future business career) remains to be seen, but some of the

candidates are scarily ambitious.

All equip themselves well enough, but the odd teenage moment, such as one lad saying he couldn't make packed lunches because it was "too windy" is inevitable.

Personally, I'd take a punt on Zoe Plummer taking the crown. The Londoner seems intent on total global domination by her 18th birthday and who would be foolhardy enough to stand in her way? Her mixture of extreme confidence and total brashness is enough to make a grown man weep.

She'll likely get the bullet tonight now that I've said that, but she is certainly a force to be reckoned with.

The most delightful thing about this show however, is the way Lord

Alan Sugar cuts the contestant facing the boot a little slack.

When all is said and done these kids have been selected because they have are high achievers, but they are still kids and to verbally ruin them would be a bit too brutal.

Apparently 28,000 people applied to run the gauntlet and as the main man told Jordan, the first person to be get his marching orders: "Whilst your mates were sitting on their armchair scoffing crisps and eating cola, you were here, you made it here, and don't ever forget that".

Good on him, too.

At age 16 I could barely tie my own shoelaces, let alone run a business, so best not to crush that spirit of young enterprise with a terrible boardroom experience.

Lord Sugar, it seems, really does have a heart after all.

MOTORS NEWS



Nissan reveals a Juke box full of styling tricks

NISSAN is about to open order books on its most revolutionary mainstream car so far – the jauntily-styled yet pugna-cious Juke baby crossover.

Priced from only £12,795 and offered in two or four-wheel-drive format, Nissan says it manages to be compact SUV as well as sports car – a 190PS (187bhp) turbocharged version heads the range.

Built at Nissan's Sunderland UK plant deliveries start in September, when it joins the Qashqai and flagship Murano in the marque's crossover selection.



Peugeot's 3008 hoping to be automatic choice

PEUGEOT has expanded its multiple award-winning 3008 crossover line-up with a powerful 163bhp 2.0-litre automatic version (from £21,395).

The new engine gains power while lowering consumption and emissions. It is also available only with a six-speed automatic gearbox, which shows the increasing popularity of 'self-shifters' with buyers of MPVs, SUVs and cars that straddle both classes in the aptly named crossover class inhabited by the 3008. Drivers should still be able to average well over 40mpg.



Golf tees off again with more impressive Match

WELCOME again to the Golf Match – VW's best-known Golf special edition over several generations of the long-running family hatchback.

As hard-pressed UK car buyers hunt more value, the Match replaces the SE trim level and adds some £1,600 of equipment while costing just £300 more than the outgoing car. The Match can also be bought in eco-friendly BlueMotion format. Match prices start from £17,730 for the 1.4-litre TSI three-door – order now for delivery from late June.



LUCKY CHARM: On top of being a terrific looking car a big bonus for Alfa's MiTo is its improved MultiAir petrol engine which has added more power yet lowered the car's emissions

Is it the new Alfasud?

ROAD TEST ALFA MiTo

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

whichever engine you have, but this goes further yet can even average 50mpg if you are sensible.

The Cloverleaf will turn your head though.

There is a free-revving 170bhp on tap from a 1.4-litre petrol unit – 0-62mph in 7.5 seconds – and even with the top 'Dynamic' throttle and suspension DNA setting there is no steering wheel fight or scrabbling of the front wheels as they battle to put down the power, though I can imagine knocking the DNA setting back to normal when it gets wet.

The Cloverleaf can also be flicked through all six gears rapidly, helped by a specially shortened lever in this version.

The MiTo caveats are the usual ones; the cabin is not the most spacious and inviting in class and the boot might be large, but there is a high lip to struggle suitcases and shopping over. But this is less supermini and more baby coupé thanks to style and great powertrains including diesels.

As sales show though, it is the free-revving petrols that turn on would-be MiTo buyers, who end up with a car that is cheaper, more stylish and less common than the increasingly ubiquitous Mini.



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08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIRC 5 DR ICE BLUE 1300 MILES.....	£8995	
07 57NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£9495	
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07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£7995	
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIRC SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£7995	
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02 02 CORSA 1-2 AUTO PAS 3 DR BREEZE BLUE 22000 MILES.....	£3495	

DAIHATSU		
09 09 DAIHATSU MATERA 1-5 5 DR AUTO PAS AIRC 1900 MILES.....	£9995	
08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE ICE 9000 MILES.....	£7995	
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CITROENS		
08 58 CITROEN CX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR CATS EYES BLUE 1800 MILES.....	£9995	
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08 58 MAZDA 5 TS2 AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC BLUE MET 7000 MILES.....	£11995	
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06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC 5 DR MET BLUE 1900 MILES.....	£6995	
06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC 5 DR MET BLUE 20000 MILES.....	£6495	
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIRC 5 DR SEA GREY 16000 MILES.....	£8995	
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06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£5995	
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05 55 SUZUKI LIANNA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 51000 MILES.....	£4995	
KIA		
08 58 KIA PICANTO 1-1 2 5 DR AUTO PAS LIQUID SILVER 10000 MILES.....	£7495	
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07 07 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER AIRC 16000 MILES.....	£5995	
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08 58 HYUNDAI 1-4 GETZ AUTO PAS 5 DOOR MET BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£7995	
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03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIRC NIGHT FIRE RED 43000 MILES.....	£2995	
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07 07 CHEVROLET KALOS SX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 20000 MILES.....	£5495	
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06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£7995	
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06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5 DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£6495
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06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIRC SILVER 16000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO 5 DR BLUE 7 SEATS 8000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIRC CHAMPAGNE 21000 MILES.....	£8495
06 56 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 2-0 AUTO PAS AIRC CHAMPAGNE 28000 MILES.....	£8495
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIRC BLUE 22000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIRC CHAMPAGNE 16000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIRC CHAMPAGNE 26000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIRC BLUE 17000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIRC BLUE 17000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIRC RED MET 14000 MILES.....	£7495
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07 57 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER AIRC 3000 MILES.....	£8495
07 57 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 15000 MILES.....	£8995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER AIRC 16000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 LAGUNA EXPRESSION ESTATE 2-0 AUTO PAS MET GREY 8000 MILES.....	£7995
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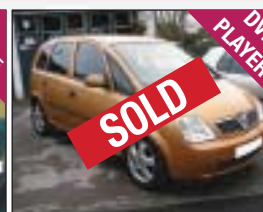
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INITIA,5DR,1 OWNER,S/HISTORY,19K
REDUCED £5,695**



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3dr, 1 owner, A/C, Alloys, 20k
REDUCED £6,695**



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1.2 Sprinta,3dr,1 Owner,A/C,14k
REDUCED £5,695**



**2007 07 CITROEN C1 1.0 Rhythm
5dr, 10owner, S/History, 29k
REDUCED £5,395**



**2006 56 TOYOTA AYGO 1.0
VVT-I,5DR,1 OWNER,S/HISTORY, 26K
REDUCED £5,595**



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5 DOOR,1 OWNER,S/HISTORY,A/C,24K
£5,995**



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Style Climate, 3dr, 2 Owners, A/C, 24k
£5,995**



**2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Sport
5dr, 1 Owner, S/History, Alloys, 32k
REDUCED £6,995**



**2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 Sport AUTO
5dr,1 Owner,S/History,A/C,Alloys,25k
£6,995**



**2007 07 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX AUTO
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PROPERTY NEWS

We will see rates keep on improving

Steve Osborne, The Mortgage Man, shares his knowledge with you in his new column



HOW many different ways of borrowing money to fund your next house purchase do you think there are out there? A couple of hundred? A thousand, even?

The staggering truth is that the number of mortgage products available has now reached 2,053, an increase of 70 per cent on the number available just a year ago.

Interestingly, it is the number of mortgages offering higher loan-to-value rates that is growing the fastest as lenders continue to relax their credit criteria and make money more easily available.

While a choice of 2,000-odd mortgages sounds like a huge choice, many lenders offer dozens of products that are often very similar. What is does mean, though, is that The Mortgage Company has seen an influx of new enquiries, particularly from the first time buyers that are so vital to keeping the market moving.

It seems to be having a knock-on effect at the much higher end of the market, too, where we are experiencing a large increase of applications for purchases over £500,000.

To get the best deals you still need a larger deposit, but there are much better deals available for customers who can only find ten per cent of the cost than there were a few months ago, when most lenders were tying customers in to high fixed rates for up to five years.

I think it is likely this trend of improving rates will continue and we will soon see some "normality" back in the first time buyer market.

Fixed rates seem to be the most popular at the moment because of the uncertainty of what could happen to bank base rates in the future, but there are some very good tracker deals still available for those willing to take the risk.

When looking at rates, be careful to consider all the costs. Some low rates come with huge arrangement fees, while higher rates often have little or no fee. The best deal for you will depend mainly on the amount you want to borrow as well as the lender's criteria and other costs, so always take advice from a whole of market broker before making a decision.

Steve Osborne The Mortgage Company Ashford



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House prices are finally heading up, up and away

■ BY NICK AMES

ACCORDING to studies carried out comparing spring figures, house prices are rising at double digit rates, year on year, for the first time since October 2007.

The Nationwide House Price Index has reported average house prices climbing one per cent in April and by 10.5 per cent from levels in April 2009.

On a three month rolling basis, which is a less volatile measure, they edged down by 1.1 per cent reflecting a slight price drop in February, however in March that measure showed a rise of 1.5 per cent.

Therefore experts feel that the crisis of 2008 is receding and now is definitely the time to buy.

"Property in the South East is always in demand," said Jo Richards, marketing and corporate manager at Hillreed Homes.

"There are never sufficient properties, so it tends to keep prices buoyed".

Hillreed Homes is currently marketing the "Charing" house types at its flagship development, Highland Park in Ashford.

These homes are scheduled to be ready for occupation in Autumn 2010, but customers



ON THE RISE: Experts feel the crisis of 2008 is receding and now is definitely the time to start thinking about buying

can buy off plan now and secure a new home at today's price.

The Charing house types are built on three storeys providing three good sized bedrooms, plus large family/dining/kitchen area on one floor and a more formal lounge area on the ground floor.

Highland Park, Green Fields Lane, Ashford is a brand new community in the "Gateway to Europe".

Currently there is a wide range of brand new homes being built at Highland Park, many for immediate occupation and prices currently range from £164,450 for a two bedroom, mid terrace house with garage – which also comes with a ten per cent Equity Share Scheme reducing the initial price and £148,005 to £193,950 for a three bedroom, end of terrace house with garage. A show house and site sales office is open seven days a week 10am to 5pm.

First-time buyer house prices keep increasing

IN ITS May affordability index, FindaProperty.com has reported that first-time buyer house prices have increased for the fourth consecutive month, taking the average asking price of a starter home to £155,677.

The figure is 1.2 per cent higher than a year ago and at its highest since February 2009.

At the same time, affordability has improved for those getting a foot on the property ladder, despite the rise in asking prices and a fall in average first-time buyer income.

According to figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the cost of the average entry level home is now almost 4.9 times gross household earnings, compared with 5.5 times at the end of 2008.

Consequently, the typical "affordability gap", or effective deposit required, has eased to £56,449, or almost 1.8 times average household earnings, whereas at the end of December 2008 the gap was a staggering £70,000, or 2.4 times the average first-time buyer income.

A different picture emerges for those with ownership ambitions in London, where the current affordability gap soars to £153,364 or 4.7 times average first-time buyer income.

Lenders are now 'open for business' again

MORTGAGE rates peaked in August 2009 and have steadily fallen to their lowest level in a year since then, according to a recent study.

Analyst group Moneyfacts explained that the average two-year fixed mortgage – widely seen as the "barometer" of the mortgage market – stands at its lowest level in a year, while average three and five-year fixed rate mortgages are close behind.

Michelle Slade, the spokesperson for Moneyfacts, said: "Lenders have slowly become acclimatised to a new look mortgage market and continue to take more steps to improve the competitiveness of deals."

"The 'open for business' sign is back in the window as lenders improve the availability of mortgages."

She added that lenders are more active in the mortgage market which is very welcome for those looking for increased competition as it drives rates down.

Earlier this week, it was asserted by moniesupermarket.com that fixed-rate mortgages have fallen to their lowest level since April 2007.

New coalition agrees on housing sustainability

BOTH the Liberal Democrats and Conservative Party have similar views on housing sustainability, it is claimed by environmentalists.

John Alker, head of advocacy at the UK Green Building Council, said he believed the government will actually be fairly stable under the newly-formed coalition.

He added that it is a good thing there is agreement between the two parties about certain issues surrounding housing.

"When they got down the list and saw climate change I think they were probably quite glad they could say, 'Yes, smart grids, yes, refurbishment of the existing housing stock'," Mr Alker noted.

In their pre-election manifesto, the Conservative Party outlined plans to abolish home information packs, as well as plans to make it easier for social housing tenants to buy their own homes.

The Liberal Democrats' proposals included plans to bring 250,000 empty homes back into use and to ensure repossession is a last resort when borrowers cannot meet mortgage repayments.

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Town house over four floors. Bathroom, a re-fitted kitchen, three reception rooms which could be re-configured to incorporate more bedroom space.

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5

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- Garden, garage, In a select road
- Edge of the village of Chart Sutton

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- Grove Green development
- Refitted kitchen & carpets

£229,995

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- Ragstone character cottage
- Two/three bedrooms, lounge
- Dining room, kitchen, Bathroom

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Vinters Park

- Three bedroom end of terrace
- Double glazed, Conservatory
- Garage

Offers in excess of £190,000

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- Lounge/diner, garden & garage
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom

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- Lounge/diner kitchen

£165,000

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- Conservatory, Bathroom

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Barming



£250,000

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Sutton Valence £625,000

Westgate House is a modern detached family home, perfect for those seeking a semi rural home within easy reach of the local villages. The property has been very well maintained and presented in excellent condition throughout. The garden is well established with a raised and covered pergola. It provides large entrance hall, sitting room, family room, study, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, utility and wc. The first floor offers master bedroom with ensuite, guest bedroom with ensuite and two further doubles. The very large plot is set well back from the road overlooking countryside with woods to the rear a long gravel driveway leads to detached double garage with large room above.



Fairbourne Heath £275,000

2 Fairbourne Heath Cottages is a charming Victorian country home located in a quiet rural country lane. Accommodation offers entrance lobby, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, conservatory with a spacious landing, two double bedrooms, bathroom with shower cubicle. The property has front and rear gardens, substantial timber workshop/shed and private off road parking.



Harrietsham £695,000

This attractive detached country property can be found in the rural hamlet of Chegworth between Ulcombe and Harrietsham and can be found behind Chegworth Manor Farmhouse and accessed via a gated shared private drive, all adjoining the Leeds Castle Estate. It is believed to date back to 1840 and was converted in the late 1990s and has been well maintained and improved. Ground floor provides spacious sitting room with inglenook style fireplace, bespoke Morris and Murray fitted kitchen. There are currently three double beds with space for a fourth to be created. The property overlooks and adjoins farmland and the grounds provide a private secure haven for those with children and animals.




Boughton Monchelsea £435,000

St Augustines Mission Hall is a truly individual property originally built between 1874 and 1881. It has been sympathetically converted into a home retaining a wealth of period features including the bell tower, font stone and a poor box in the wall. The stunning sitting room has a large woodburning stove and a high vaulted ceiling creating an impressive entertaining space. The ground floor also offers entrance lobby, large entrance/dining hall, conservatory and kitchen/breakfast room. First floor provides the master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and shower cubicle, two further double beds and shower room. There is an integrated single garage with parking at the front with a south facing rear garden.

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Loose



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Halling



- Victorian Terraced House
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking

Enquire Snodland
OIEO £155,000

Sandling



- Semi-Rural Location
- Approximately 120ft Rear Garden
- Various Outbuildings / Workshops

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East Malling



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- Spacious Accommodation
- Offered With No Forward Chain

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Headcorn



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Bearsted Park



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- Secluded Cul-de-Sac Location
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Senior & General Appointments 41-44



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Kent DA11 7LS
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Email: personnel@westheathschool.com Tel: 01732 460553 ext 294

Closing date for applications 11th June 2010
Interviews week commencing 14th June 2010

The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring.

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Sackville School

Headmaster:
Peter Lane BSc

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Hildenborough
Kent TN11 9HN

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E: office@sackvilleschool.com
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We are an Independent Secondary School looking to recruit the following teacher for Sept 2010 or soon after.

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18th June at midday

Interviews: Tuesday 25th June
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Temporary Teacher
for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties

Starting
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MPS + 2 SEN Points

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This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

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Closing Date: 11th June 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact
Linda Taylor, Business Manager
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Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science and Language College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.gsgs.org.uk
email: enquiries@gsgs.org.uk

Part-Time Teacher of PE (Maternity Cover 0.4 FTE)

Required from Sept 2010
Main Professional Scale

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed PE Teacher to cover maternity leave from Sept 2010 to June 2011.

The ideal candidate will be able to teach KS3 and KS4 core PE. Willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities would be an advantage. The role is part time maternity cover for 2 days a week or equivalent.

Part-Time Teacher of Music (Maternity Cover 0.6 FTE)

Required from Sept 2010
Main Professional Scale

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Music Teacher to cover maternity leave from Sept 2010 to June 2011.

The ideal candidate will be able to teach music up to A level. Willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities would be an advantage. The role is part time maternity cover for 3 days a week or equivalent.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from the School Office. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than Wednesday 9 June 2010

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies at our Newbridge House Centre Chatham:

TRAINER

£17,834 pa

We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme for young people.

You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.

Experience in employer engagement, inductions and reviews would also be desirable.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (part time) 16hrs

£17,834pa(pro-rata)

This role is to provide high quality Key Skills for Life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information. Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels verbally and in writing.

You will be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.

Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

We have the following vacancies at our Sittingbourne Centre:

YOUTH WORKER (part time) 18hrs ESF Switched On Project

£7,946

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can motivate and engage young people between the ages of 14-16 on short motivational courses. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent.

PROJECT WORKER x 2 ESF TIE Project (full time)

£17,834 pa

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme with 14-19 year old young people. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent, and including the Young Offenders Institute in Medway.

These posts could work from our Sittingbourne or Chatham Centres

Closing date for all the above posts is 25 June 2010

Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, book keeping and in particular reception type duties. Travel and lunch expenses are paid.

Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

CHILDREN'S CLUB LEADERS

Required for Dover-Calais Ferry contracts, from 15th July – 2nd September inclusive.

Must be available to work 5 days per week, weekends included and have accommodation in the Dover area. Applicants will be subject to a CRB disclosure.

Character Performer also required, to work across all 5 Dover ships.

Please email you CV to:
jobs@livebusiness.co.uk

Live Business Grosvenor Productions, 6 Square Rigger Row, Plantation Wharf, London, SW11 3TZ

History Teacher

Part time flexible hours (7-13hours)
Required for September 2010 or soon after

We are an Independent Secondary School and are looking to recruit a professional, resourceful and enthusiastic graduate Historian to teach across the age range. An ability to teach another subject would be welcomed, although not essential.

Closing date for applications: 18th June at midday
Interviews: Tuesday 25th June

Please contact for an application pack 01732 836400 or email susan.watkins@sackvilleschool.com

Sackville School
Headmaster: Peter Lane BSc
Tonbridge Road
Hildenborough
Kent TN11 9HN

T: 01732 838888
F: 01732 836404
E: office@sackvilleschool.com
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We are looking for an exceptional sales person for a field sales position in the Ashford area
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Ideally from a sales background you will understand the importance of balancing good customer service with achieving targets. Media experience is not essential as training will be given.

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

Human Resources Advisor Full or Part-time Opportunity

Salary: £30,002 - £37,179

MidKent College has existed for over 80 years and we pride ourselves on our responsiveness to employers and ability to meet the needs of our students. In July 2009 we successfully opened our new EB6m campus for the Medway towns and are due to commence modernisation work at our Maidstone campus.

As part of our continued development we are looking to recruit a Human Resources Advisor who will help deliver our operational commitment, primarily at our Maidstone campus.

You will provide comprehensive Human Resources (HR) advice and guidance to the Campus Senior Leadership Team, managers and staff and actively participate in development of employment policies. In addition, you will lead on staff consultation processes, people planning, change management processes, recruitment and absence management in your designated departments. As an HR generalist you will engage with our stakeholders to enhance and support the delivery of outstanding learning opportunities at the College.

This role will involve working closely with the Head of HR and is a rare and exciting opportunity to help develop a fit for purpose HR support service.

The ideal candidate for this role will be CPD qualified and have experience of working in unionised environments. The person will have a track record delivering professional HR advice and support and be able to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and experience to improve the performance of the HR function.

For an informal discussion please contact Ian Johnston, Head of Human Resources on 01634 383601. Please specify on your application whether you are interested in a full or part-time position.

Benefits include: Benden Healthcare, Pension, Generous Annual Leave, Flexible working, Childcare Vouchers

CLOSING DATE: 11 JUNE 2010 INTERVIEW DATE: 17 JUNE 2010

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.



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ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

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You will:

- Have strong leadership and organisational skills.
- Possess or be working towards a suitable qualification, perhaps NVQ level 3 or 4.
- Have a good knowledge of learning disability care.

SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £13,250

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louanne.newman@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.

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2. Paralegals with 12 months- 5 years+ experience
3. Legal Executives
4. Solicitors with 12 months- 5 years+ experience.

We are recruiting roles for all levels of experience and would be extremely pleased to receive applications from the following candidates:

- Solicitors, Legal Executives and Paralegals already working within a personal injury / credit hire environment, looking to further their careers.
- Insurance company claims personnel with experience in dealing with personal injury claims of any complexity.
- Other exceptional candidates who have a real interest in starting a career in the field of Personal Injury, who may have some relevant experience gained in other role

We are also recruiting for the following positions:-

- First Response Unit Trainee Paralegals
- Cost Draftsman -all levels
- Web Developers

All roles within the Practice attract very competitive salaries.

To apply email with your CV to Rebecca@taylor-green.co.uk or call 0208 313 7863

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Visitor Services Manager £34k

Press & Events Officer £25k

Marketing Officer £25k

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You will be joining us at a key stage in our development as we prepare to welcome visitors next year.

To find out more about Turner Contemporary and to apply for any of the above roles, go to: www.turnercontemporary.org

Closing date for applications: **Fri 18 June 2010**
Interviews week commencing **28 June 2010**





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Successful candidates should have relevant customer service experience in a busy demanding environment. Technical knowledge from within the print or paper industry would be desirable.

Send Cv's to: **Lisa Faratro, CPI Mackays, Badger Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8TD** by Friday 11th June



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any websites belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vesitious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will be the same length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card. Any cost of advertising placed will be reappplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of advertising). For any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-over and/or non-copyright free music, it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have been issued as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
 b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
 c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
 d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
 e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
 f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owner or any third parties companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer/Course Leader in Art and Design Ref: P0413

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

This compact, high achieving Art and Design department requires a leader who is inspirational and multi-skilled, able to teach traditional painting, sculpture, fashion and textiles, photography and graphic design as well as be proficient with computer based design processes. They should be motivational with both staff and students, able to guide the team forward into the new BTEC Diplomas, liaise constructively with higher management and pursue local contacts to ensure the courses develop and maintain a vocational link. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Part time hours also available, please state clearly on your application your preference.

Lecturer in Public Services Ref: P0457

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

We are looking for an excellent individual to participate in the delivery of Public Services programmes throughout the College. The successful candidate will teach on a range of BTEC / NCFE, and School Links programmes and have a background in Public Services. This post will also involve working with students in sports, expeditions and off-site visits to various Public Services areas.

Lecturer in Health and Social Care Ref: P0323

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week
Maidstone

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of edexcel Healthcare programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Functional Skills Ref: P0385

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

The College is looking to recruit an outstanding individual to participate in the delivery of Functional Skills programmes across the College. The role will involve embedding Functional Skills within learners' programmes of study and ensuring that learners develop and achieve the skills they need to progress. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Child Care Ref: P0070

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata
(dependent on qualifications and experience)
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Medway 18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Departmental Administrator Ref: M0171

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Medway

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills to join one of the largest Faculties within the College, Services to People. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Technician in Hair and Beauty Ref: M0296

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum
Fixed Term Maternity Cover
Maidstone

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Closing date: Wednesday 16 June 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer





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CRICKET

BY TOM HOWARD

Kent League Premier Division

Bexley 1st XI v The Mote 1st XI

THE MOTE moved to the top of the Premier Division after shocking previous leaders Bexley with a three-wicket win on Saturday.

Tom Harvey's newly-promoted side are yet to taste defeat this season as they continue to live up to their captain's prediction of a top-three finish.

The Mote won the toss and elected to bowl which proved to be an inspired decision. Bexley had a day to forget with the bat and they never really settled at the crease.

They were in severe danger early on with the score 6 for 5 after Kenny George and Tom Parsons struck with devastating effect.

Hopeful

Bexley tried to recover through George Wells (31) and Gavin Pointer (47) but it proved to be a lost cause, as they were bowled out for 124. George was the pick of the bowlers with fine figures of 4 for 29.

With a low total to overhaul, The Mote were hopeful of wrapping the game up early, but they also found batting difficult.

Matthew White gave the visitors a solid start with a half-century, but the innings began to fall apart shortly after. In the end it was left to Parsons and Glen Aukett to hit the winning runs.

The victory means The Mote, who host Lordswood this Saturday, have a slender four-point lead at the top of the division.

Mote top of the table after stunning Bexley



LEAGUE LEADERS: Glen Aukett (pictured) hit the winning runs to chalk up another win for The Mote

SCORE CARD

Bexley 1st XI

	Runs			
Alex Kemp	Lbw	b George		3
Paul Sheddin	Lbw	b Parsons		0
Jibran Khan	Lbw	b Parsons		0
Alex Pinnock	ct Fordham	b George		0
George Wells	b Aukett			31
Charlie Packard	b George			2
Gavin Pointer	ct Harvey	b Parsons		47
Adam Riley	b Parsons			1
Steven Silver	b George			0
Jason Benn	ct Parsons	b Waters		23
Martin Pask	not out			3

Extras (5b 10lb)	15
Total (all out, 34 overs)	124

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Tom Parsons	15	4	66	4
Kenny George	7	3	29	4
Glen Aukett	8	4	15	1
Laurence Waters	0.1	0	0	1

The Mote 1st XI

	Runs			
Matthew White	b Silver			53
Tom Harvey	lbw b Wells			18
James Hodgson	ct Wells b Wells			5
Daniel Thirkell	lbw b Silver			1
James Marriott	ct Silver b Benn			17
Chris Back	lbw b Silver			13
Laurence Waters	ct Pointer b Wells			4
Tom Parsons	not out			5
Glen Aukett	not out			1
Alex Fordham	did not bat			
Kenny George	did not bat			

Extras (2b 6lb 2w 1nb)	11
Total (7 wickets, 36 overs)	127

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Steven Silver	14	3	44	3
Jason Benn	7	0	29	1
George Wells	10	0	29	3
Adam Riley	3	0	10	0
Martin Pask	4	2	8	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Sandwich Town 3rd XI v Yalding 1st XI

A POOR performance with both bat and ball from Yalding saw them fall to a 122-run defeat at Sandwich Town 3rd XI.

Sandwich batted first and made the most of their time at the crease as they scored a competitive 237 for 4 before declaring after only 37 overs.

Yalding struggled to cause Town any problems and only Mohammed Waseem and Marty Hollis claimed wickets, but by then the damage was already done.

Yalding's bad day continued with the bat as they were skittled out for only 115. Graham Hutchins was the only man to provide any resistance with a creditable 58.

Sandwich Town 3rd XI

		Runs			
Zack Fagg	ct Ratcliff b Hollis				110
Tony Curwen	lbw b Waseem				33
Matthew Burgess	lbw b Waseem				21
Rhys Jones	not out				36
Charlie Laslett	b Waseem				1
Andy Chapman	not out				14
Clive Thurgate	did not bat				
Dan Cook	did not bat				
Ben Thurgate	did not bat				
Chris Smith	did not bat				
John Wickham	did not bat				
Extras	(3lb 7w 7nb 5pr)				22
Total	(4 wickets dec, 37 overs)				237

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
James Fenn	9	1	66	0
Christopher Jarman	5	0	33	0
Brian Ethackadu	6	0	41	0
Mohammad Waseem	10	2	37	3
Marty Hollis	7	0	52	1

Yalding 1st XI

		Runs			
Matthew Thomas	lbw b Smith				6
Joel Shopland	lbw b Smith				5
Marty Hollis	b Wickham				7
Graham Hutchins	b Thurgate				58
Alistair Ratcliff	b Chapman b Smith				6
Mohammad Waseem	b Thurgate				10
James Fenn	ct Cook b Cook				2
Blesson Ethackadu	ct Laslett b Thurgate				3
Brian Ethackadu	not out				1
Christopher Jarman	b Thurgate				0
Extras	(8b 4lb 5w)				17
Total	(10 wickets, 33.5 overs)				115

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
John Wickham	8	1	19	1
Chris Smith	10	3	29	3
Dan Cook	9	2	31	1
Ben Thurgate	6.5	0	24	4

KENT VILLAGE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Stowting Sunday XI v Leeds & Broomfield Sunday XI

AN UNBEATEN knock of 80 from James Ingarfield steered Leeds & Broomfield to a five-wicket win.

Stowting put themselves in a good position to challenge for the win after hitting 190 from their 40 overs, with Alan Crush top-scoring with 40.

However, Leeds & Broomfield made a brisk start to their reply through opener Ingarfield, who went on to carry his bat. His steady flow of runs while other batsmen fell proved to be the key to the game, as the visitors clinched a comfortable win with six overs to spare.

Stowting Sunday XI

		Runs			
Marten Medhurst	ct Atkinson b Dixon				3
Dan Bland	lbw b Martin				12
Alan Crush	ct Robins b Taplin				40
Cliff Ball	b Farlam b Longhurst				25
Mark Jackson	ct Farlam b Longhurst				7
Jon Hill	b Dixon				28
Craig Harding	ct Martin b Taplin				12
Matthew Cox	run out				18
Stephen Jackson	not out				11
Andy Parmenter	b Dixon				5
David Jackson	not out				2
Extras	(3b 4lb 18w 2nb)				27
Total	(9 wickets, 40 overs)				190

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Rob Dixon	8	0	31	3
Anton Martin	7	1	23	1
Rob Farlam	4	0	31	1
James Longhurst	7	2	18	1
Max Aitken	2	0	13	0
Nick Atkinson	4	0	14	0
John Taplin	4	0	22	2
Andrew Turner	4	0	31	0

Leeds & Broomfield Sunday League XI

		Runs			
James Ingarfield	not out				80
Rob Dixon	b Jackson				15
Max Aitken	ct Hill b Jackson				14
Joshua Robins	ct Hill b Medhurst				16
James Longhurst	ct Jackson b Parmenter				11
Nick Atkinson	lbw b Medhurst				1
Anton Martin	not out				40
Rob Farlam	did not bat				
Mohammad Waseem	did not bat				
Andrew Turner	did not bat				
John Taplin	did not bat				
Extras	(7lb 7w 2nb)				16
Total	(5 wickets, 34 overs)				193

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Dan Bland	8	2	43	0
Mark Jackson	9	0	43	2
Marten Medhurst	8	1	43	2
Andy Parmenter	6	0	31	1
Alan Crush	1	0	11	0
Stephen Jackson	2	0	15	0

KENT VILLAGE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Yalding Sunday XI v Teston Sunday XI

YALDING Sunday are just a point behind league leaders Bilsington after an impressive nine-wicket win on Sunday.

Teston found run scoring difficult and only two batsmen, Roy Sams (21) and Colin Bentwood (22), really got themselves in before getting themselves out. The side were eventually bowled out by a fiery attack for 123.

Yalding were equally as impressive with the bat and they cruised to victory after just 25 overs. Matt Britz (58) and Adnan Pervaiz (31) hit the all important winning runs.

Teston Sunday XI

		Runs			
Graham Martin	b Waseem				4
Roy Sams	ct Ghous b Haider				21
Russell Booth	ct Haider b Rafiq				17
Steve Coley	ct Fazal b Waseem				18
Peter Erlam	b Pervaiz				9
Simon Warren	b Pervaiz				0
Colin Bentwood	ct Pervaiz b Ethackadu				22
Liam Martin	b Ethackadu				4
Cain Smith	ct Jain b Rafiq				7
Josh Stroud	run out Pervaiz				3
Callum Smith	not out				0

Extras	(10b 7lb 1w)	18
Total	(all out , 40 overs)	123

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Usman Pervaiz	9	6	12	2
Rustam Haider	9	0	32	1
Muhammad Rafiq	9	3	28	2
Mohammad Waseem	9	0	27	2
Blesson Ethackadu	4	0	7	2

Yalding Sunday 1st XI

		Runs			
Matt Britz	not out				58
Zeeshan Fazal	c&b Josh Stroud				28
Adnan Pervaiz	not out				31
Fiaz Ghous	did not bat				
Shumshair Haider	did not bat				
Usman Pervaiz	did not bat				
Manish Jain	did not bat				
Mohammad Waseem	did not bat				
Rustam Haider	did not bat				
Muhammad Rafiq	did not bat				
Blesson Ethackadu	did not bat				

Extras	(3lb 4w)	7
Total	(1 wickets, 25.2 overs)	124

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Steve Coley	4	0	15	0
Simon Warren	6	0	23	0
Callum Smith	6	1	31	0
Josh Stroud	6	0	26	1
Roy Sams	2.2	0	16	0
Colin Bentwood	1	0	10	0

KENT VILLAGE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Hawkinge Sunday XI v Leybourne Sunday XI

A DISAPPOINTING showing with the bat saw Leybourne slump to a seven-wicket defeat at the hands of league-leaders Hawkinge.

The visitors found the Hawkinge attack in inspired form with Shaid Rajput the chief destroyer, finishing with figures of 4 for 8. The visitors were bowled out for a paltry 80.

With the simple task of 81 required for the win, Hawkinge comfortably surpassed the total inside 20 overs. Josh Bryen top scored with 43.

Leybourne Sunday XI

		Runs			
John Smith	ct Payne b Rajput				34
Alex Markwick	ct Hickmott b Willis				6
Nigel Bacon	ct Hickmott b Willis				0
Dave Roberts	b Trev Brooks				4
Jake Rose	b Trev Brooks				4
David Cahalin	run out				12
Darren Davies	ct Hickmott b Willis				0
Tom Smith	not out				12
Richard Webb	ct Emslie b Rajput				0
Alex Rose	ct Emslie b Rajput				1
Tom Bray	lbw b Rajput				0

Extras		7
Total	(all out, 26.5 overs)	80

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Trev Brooks	9	2	26	2
Ivan Willis	9	0	26	3
Shaid Rajput	4.5	2	8	4
Josh Bryen	4	0	18	0

Hawkinge Sunday League XI

		Runs			
Tom Payne	ct Bacon b Webb				10
Josh Bryen	not out				43
Steve Hickmott	lbw b Bray				12
Neville Emslie	ct Webb b Rose				6
Shaid Rajput	not out				8
Ivan Willis	did not bat				
Trev Brooks	did not bat				
Jack Gooding	did not bat				
Adam Lambertson	did not bat				
Tom Been	did not bat				
Andy Brooks	did not bat				

Extras		5
Total	(3 wickets, 19.4 overs)	84

Bowlers				
	O	M	R	W
Richard Webb	5	1	15	1
Jake Rose	6.4	0	40	1
Tom Bray	6	2	15	1
Alex Markwick	2	0	8	0

Stones boss signs two in a bid to bolster midfield

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

CENTRAL midfielders Colin Richmond and Simon Pettit are the first new faces to join Maidstone United as Peter Nott looks to expand his resources for next season.

The Stones have been keen to strengthen their midfield ever since the departures of Jay Saunders and Nick Barnes to Ryman Premier League rivals Margate towards the end of last season.

The capture of young Sittingbourne midfielder Richmond and former Ramsgate man Pettit will significantly increase the club's midfield options.

Richmond has been a vital part of Sittingbourne's Ryman South side for the last two seasons, while 27-year-old midfielder Pettit was a member of the Ramsgate side that secured a Ryman Premier play-off spot three seasons ago.

A pleased assistant manager Tony Cornwell said: "We needed to strengthen that midfield area especially when Jay Saunders and Nick Barnes left the club last season. We know Colin well because he played for us at youth level so he will be a great addition alongside Simon."

"We are still talking to additional players. We would like to have 90 per cent of our deals



Pictures: IOR KIRCO

NEW FACES: Sittingbourne's Colin Richmond (left) and former Ramsgate man Simon Pettit (right in red) have been drafted in to strengthen Maidstone's midfield

done by pre-season, but we do have a few trialists coming down for pre-season so we will have a look at them as well."

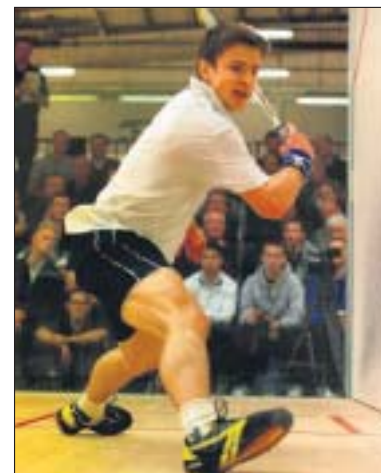
With goals hard to come by last season and striker Lyndon Rowland leaving the club, Nott will be keen to add to his options up front.

The Stones also confirmed they will not play a pre-season friendly against Fulham after the Premier League club turned down their offer. The Stones had hoped to set up a lucrative

pre-season friendly against the Cottagers as part of defender Chris Smalling's move to the club in 2008.

Two more pre-season fixtures have been arranged which will see Maidstone take on Conference South side Dover Athletic at Crabble on July 20, then travel to face Ryman North side Romford on August 3. Club chiefs are also hoping to set up a friendly against old rivals Gillingham.

SQUASH



FAVOURITE: Scotland's Alan Clyne is one of the international stars hoping to win the inaugural Kent Squash Open

Internationals on court for first ever Kent Open

THE MOTE Squash Club will be filled by a host of the world's best players as the inaugural Kent Squash Open takes place this week.

Entrants from 16 countries will descend on the venue to participate in the Professional Squash Association tournament, which began yesterday.

Top seed is Scotland's Alan Clyne, ranked 62 in the world, and a semi finalist in The Mote Open invitational event last year. He will be joined by professionals from Egypt, Malaysia, England, Ireland, Netherlands and India.

The Mote Squash Club will be represented by leading players Jonny Powell and James Evans, who are aiming to qualify for the latter stages of the tournament.

Kent captain Ben Ford, Rodmersham's Neil Baker and Beckenham's Steven London will also be in action at the event.

Tournament director Alan Thatcher said: "We are delighted to have attracted such a high-quality field and our ambition is to make the Kent Open a major annual event on the world squash calendar."

"The courts at The Mote are in superb condition after a major refurbishment and we look forward to seeing a packed gallery for six days of superb entertainment."

The showpiece final is due to be played on Sunday. Ahead of the final, the successful Kent junior squad will be playing a Challenge Match against the South East Region.

Also, aspiring young players will also get the chance to take part in 'Operation Smack' this weekend, hitting the ball as hard as they can in front of a radar gun.

Admission for the tournament is free throughout the week.

Picture MAIDSTONE INVICTA ROWING CLUB



GOLD RUSH: Cox Kelsie Gibson guided her crew to gold at the Rowing World Cup in Slovenia

Kelsie guides crew to World Cup glory

ROWING

ADAPTIVE rower Kelsie Gibson gave her London 2012 Paralympic hopes a significant boost by winning a gold medal at the Rowing World Cup last weekend.

The regatta at Slovenia's Lake Bled was the 16-year-old's second international event for Great Britain after only being called up to the squad at the start of last month. Despite a lack of international experience, she managed to help guide her crew to gold.

The Maidstone Girls Grammar School pupil was part of the adaptive coxed fours squad who stormed to victory in Saturday's final, beating off competition from Germany, Ukraine, Ireland, Poland and Italy.

It is Gibson's second gold medal after she won on her international debut in Italy's Varese International Regatta last month.

Gibson, who has only been rowing for a year, will aim to continue her form with the Great Britain crew at the next round of the Rowing World Cup in Germany on June 18.



DISRUPTED: Rain showers limited Tim Reeves' (left) and Steve Mercer's (right) practice for the Isle of Man TT

Weather puts brakes on duo's Isle of Man TT bid

MOTORSPORT

TIM Reeves and Steve Mercer's preparations for the Isle of Man TT suffered a setback at the weekend as rain postponed the opening free practice session of the road racing festival.

The pair both made the journey to the island ahead of the weekend hoping to conquer the challenging 37.7-mile road course.

Reeves and Mercer were due to complete their first laps of the notoriously dangerous road course on Saturday, however, persistent rain made the course too dangerous and the free practice session was subsequently cancelled.

Reeves, who lives in Maidstone, was due to take part in practice sessions on Monday and Tuesday, while today will see him in action in the third session as he bids to up prepara-

tions ahead of the first race on Saturday.

Last year he finished fourth as a power problem plagued his week on the island. With the TT the only honour missing from his impressive career, he will be desperate for a maiden win.

Reeves said: "It's the world's most famous race and there is nothing like this on the calendar. I'm just as desperate to win as I've always been."

Likewise Mercer, also from Maidstone, is desperate for honours as he prepares for his first race in the superbike category this weekend. The 28-year-old, who finished as the top rookie last year, is confident he will feature at the sharp end.

He said: "I hope I can threaten the top riders and finish in the top-15, but I won't be doing anything silly, it's extremely dangerous. There is nothing like the TT, it's a very special race. In my eyes there is nothing else worth winning."

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